



October 8, 1985

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
R. E. Kramig and Company
323 South Wayne Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

Attention: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

At your request, a visit was made to the R. E. Kramig Corporation, 323 South Wayne Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of this visit was to investigate the work history and working conditions of the claimant, [REDACTED]. It is [REDACTED]'s contention that his presently diagnosed condition of asbestosis is directly related to his 33 years of work with the above named employer. Mr. George J. Kelesza, Treasurer for the R. E. Kramig Corporation, stated that [REDACTED] claim was not certified due to "insufficient information". When questioned further, Mr. Kelesza stated that the R. E. Kramig Corporation wanted additional support for [REDACTED] claimed condition. Mr. Kelesza stated that he would like a second or third opinion of [REDACTED] current state of health.

Background

The claimant held a variety of jobs from 1941 to 1952. These jobs are listed in his facsimile file and will not be repeated in this report. From the information given by the claimant, none of these previous positions involved any work in or around asbestos. In 1952 the claimant began working for the R. E. Kramig Corporation. The R. E. Kramig Corporation is primarily an insulation contractor. During the 1950's, up until approximately 1969, asbestos was the predominant component of the insulating materials used by the company. During this time period, information concerning the hazards of asbestos exposure, was scarce if available at all. [REDACTED] states that during this time he worked with asbestos in powder, sheet, and block form. No protection was provided against this exposure as the fibers were not known to be harmful.

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According to Mr. Kelesza, the R. E. Kramig Corporation switched from the application of asbestos insulation to the application of fiberglass insulation in 1969. Later (approximately 1975) the company agreed to remove asbestos insulation from customers it had serviced; refitting the customer with fiberglass insulation. [REDACTED] worked in the removal of previously installed asbestos insulation from approximately 1975 until this year. During this time he was provided with properly fit-tested respiratory protection along with protective clothing. The R. E. Kramig Corporation also developed an asbestos abatement program based on guidelines given them by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. An inspection of this program revealed a complete respiratory protection program along with standard operating procedures governing the proper removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials. Mr. Kelesza also stated that the company does offer their employees annual physical examinations which the employees routinely refuse. These physicals were stated to have been offered beginning in the late 1970's early 1980's.

[REDACTED] sworn affidavit varies somewhat from those statements obtained from Mr. Kelesza. [REDACTED] contends that he applied asbestos insulation until 1976 not 1969. He also contends that his employer never offered physical examinations.

Both Mr. Kalesza and [REDACTED] are in agreement that [REDACTED] was exposed to asbestos from 1952 until 1985. Both agree that [REDACTED] received no protection from this contaminant for at least 18 years while in the employment of the R. E. Kramig Corporation.

[REDACTED] was diagnosed as suffering from asbestosis by Dr. Michael Kelly of the Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center on February 2, 1984. [REDACTED] states in his facsimile file that he smoked cigarettes for approximately 40 years. His habit during this period was approximately one pack per day.

Toxicology

Asbestosis is a lung disorder characterized by a diffuse interstitial fibrosis, at times including pleural changes of fibrosis and calcification.¹ Chest x-rays reveal a granular change, chiefly in the lower lung fields; as the condition progresses, the heart outline becomes shaggy, and irregular patches or mottled shadowing may be seen.¹

The onset of asbestosis probably depends upon the asbestos dust concentration, the fiber morphology and the length of exposure.¹ Asbestosis is a progressive disease which may develop fully in seven to nine years and may cause death as early as thirteen years after the first exposure.¹ Usually the pneumoconiosis becomes evident 20 to 40 years after the first exposure to asbestos. Once established the asbestosis progresses even after the exposures have ceased. In its severe forms, death results from the inability of the body to obtain requisite oxygen or from the failure of the heart to pump blood through the scarred lungs.¹

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Cigarette smoking is strongly implicated as a co-carcinogen among asbestos workers. Workers who are smokers and exposed to asbestos have over 90 times the risk of non exposed non smokers in developing lung cancer.

In summary, the claimant, [REDACTED], has been diagnosed as suffering from asbestosis. [REDACTED] was exposed to asbestos, without any personal protection, for at least 18 years. The level of exposure [REDACTED] was exposed to is unknown, and as the R. E. Kramig Company no longer applies asbestos it can no longer be monitored in the workplace.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Prim

Robert A. Prim
Industrial Hygienist

RAP:gjb

Reference:

1. Proctor, Nick H.; Chemical Hazards of the Workplace, 1978. J.B. Lippencott Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.