



Together, we can make
Ohio jobs safer.
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO
Bureau 1, Central Building

July 7, 1987

Ms. Judy Spencer
Legal Department
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: OD 190485
Employer: R. E. Kramig Company
Cincinnati, Ohio

Employee: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Spencer:

[REDACTED] is a 39 year-old man who has worked as an insulator for approximately 17 years. He began work in 1966 but had a four year break while serving in the navy. In the claim, he states that he was an asbestos worker for 22 years. Since he started in June, 1966, then 21 years has elapsed to date. He was in the Navy from 1968 - 1972, four years. Since he was not an insulation worker in the Navy, his total time spent as an insulator was no more than 17 years, not twenty-two.

While the first few years may have had occasions of moderate to high exposures to dusts such as asbestos, the health effects of such exposures were beginning to be recognized and at least, minimal controls were instituted in many factories. In the early and mid-seventies OSHA and EPA regulations brought both voluntary and enforced reductions of dust gases and vapors emitted in the workplace. Personal protection, especially respirators became much more common.

Substitution of less toxic materials, such as fiberglass for asbestos, began to occur in the late seventies and this action further reduced exposure to hazardous materials.

In [REDACTED] case, most of his worklife has been spent during the time when control measures of all types were being introduced and/or increased in usage. Exposures were decreased dramatically.

4

██████████ worked out of a Union Local, and as a result would have moved from location to location, not remaining in any one job or plant for long periods. This variation very likely reduced his likelihood of continuing, consistently high exposures. The only recurring situations when exposures would have been likely would be in repair or tear-out of old installations where asbestos had been used. ██████████ medical report presents a number of ambiguous signs, symptoms and conclusions. His personal and family medical histories are filled with respiratory and cardiovascular complications. He has had rheumatic fever and suffered from shortness of breath. Both parents have emphysema and hypertension. His physician states that he has a 5% disability. This seems to be a very small degree of disability, if any at all.

The signs and symptoms, including X-ray and pulmonary function results, which are used to diagnose asbestosis, are ambiguous and similar, if not identical, to those indicative of a number of other respiratory diseases. Some of them are not even occupationally-related.

It is likely that ██████████ received some exposure to asbestos in the first few years of his work, but the disease which he claims at this time would also be due to other factors which have pre-existed for most of his life.

If I may be of further assistance in this claim, please let me know.

Sincerely,

James S. Ferguson
James S. Ferguson, CIH
Industrial Hygienist

JF:rf

5

0000 2154

Literature sources used in this include:

1. Occupation Lung Disease, Weill & Warick, Marcel Dekker, Inc., N.Y., 1981
2. Pulmonary Function Tests in Clinical and Occupational Lung Disease, Miller, Grune & Stratton, Inc., N. Y. 1986
3. Asbestos Related Disease: Difficulties in Diagnosing Occupationally Related Illness, Raymond Murphy, M.D., Frontiers in Medicine, Feb. 10, 1981