

FILE NAME: Railroads (RR)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo of the Items Investigated on the Alton Railroad & Cover Letter Listing All Foremen Interviewed and Read Instruction of the G.M.A. Committee

Bloomington, Illinois
January 14, 1938

Mr. C.M. House:

Referring to your letter of Nov. 6 in connection with the Illinois Occupational disease act, address to Mr. Voorhees with postscript to me requesting that I instruct all foremen in the mechanical dept concerning possible hazards of asbestosis, silicosis and lead poisoning and recommendations for avoiding them as set forth by the General Managers Association Committee Aug. 14, 1937, File 1541.

I have interviewed all foremen concerned whose names appear below and read them the instruction of the G.M.A. committee.

✓ F.M. Galloway	-	Venice Eng. House		
✓ C.D. Huffines	-	Roodhouse	"	
✓ F. Salmon	-	Bloomington	"	
✓ M.R. Vasconcellos	-	Ridgely	"	"
✓ L.P. Welsh	-	Joliet	"	
✓ Geo. Woltemade	-	Glenn	"	
✓ Geo. Rosenberg	-	Lincoln St.	"	
✓ H.A. Harris	-	Bloomington Car Dept.		
✓ A.A. Wood	-	Venice	"	"
✓ O.L. Hott	-	Glenn	"	"
✓ E.H. Meckstroth	-	Lincoln St.	"	"
✓ C.B. Ruyle	-	Roodhouse	"	"
✓ Mc Gill	-	Ridgely	"	"

Jos. Schneeberger

K.M. Aldridge

M. Blum

G.A. Beyer

V.C. Erickson

G. Gehle Jr.

H. Gehle

Thos. Grant

J.W. Holland

O.D. Jolly

W.M. Ludwig

J.B. Lyster

W.H. Melvin

R.J. McGrath

L.L. Nelson

H.B. Osten

H. Sandstrom

E.A. Seibel
J.D. Shields
E.H. Seymone
H.N. Thriege
C.F. Totterer

In discussing the methods of complying with the recommendations of the committee with these men a number of special problems arose and I am attaching for your information the results of our conference concerning them.

Since the stationary grinding situation is being handled separately that phase will not be included in the attached.

B & O Chief of Motive Power and Equipment Circular No. S B - 152 of May 1, 1935 and supplement #1 thereto dated Oct. 19, 1936 covers the type of respirator to be used for various types of work and the supervision should consult these circulars when securing respirators to make sure the proper type for the work involved is secured.

I note the General Managers Association Committee on Industrial Disease Act. made certain recommendations concerning ventillating hoods in shops over certain babbitting, melting brass, brazing etc. To comply with these in the Bloomington shop will involve considerable expense. Before anything is done in that direction, I suggest that the General Managers committee advise the exact minimum requirements for hoods acceptable under the Industrial Diseases Act. If this is not done hoods constructed might either be more expensive than necessary or on the other hand might not meet the approval of the inspector.

May I suggest that when this is done a small committee from the Bloomington shop supervision be appointed and instructed to decide where hoods are necessary under the law and to draw up plans and estimates for the approved type hoods.

The matter of respirators and masks can be considered handled to conclusion.


R.W. Seniff

P.S. I am attaching for your information a copy of the Chief of Motive Power and equipment Circular No. SB-152. General Storekeeper Circular No. A-598, of the B & O Railroad covering specifications for and use of respirators which I understand is in effect on the Alton. Also please note item on page 3 covering responsibility of supervisors and employees.

MEMORANDUM OF ITEMS INVESTIGATED ON THE ALTON RAILROAD IN
CONNECTION WITH THE ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ACT.

Bloomington Shops

Locomotive shop

Portable grinding wheels

Driving box gang	-	1 used 6 hrs. per day.
Rod gang	-	1 used 3 hrs. per day.
Air brake dept.	-	1 used 1 hr. per day.
Truck gang	-	1 used 3 hrs. per day.
Shoe and wedge gang	-	1 used 4 hrs. per day.
Boiler shop	-	1 used for grindin patches etc.

Men using these grinders are instructed to use type A dust respirators. Operations should be confined to places where dust will not affect other workmen. This item should be given particular attention in the case of H. Gehle's dept. where a great deal of grinding and polishing is done on motion work.

Sand blasting

Babbitting dept - Now equipped with a closed sand blast cabinet with induced draft through stack to outside of building. Sand blasting hood and mask not needed but dust respirator should be furnished.

Sand blast room - All sand blasters now wear approved hose masks and in engine house. hoods.

Boiler shop - Wet sand blasting boiler man has only been wearing hood but will be furnished with approved combined mask and hood which was formerly used by babbitt dept. sand blasting. One extra hose mask will be required for this purpose.

Spray painting

Locomotives are spray painted in west end of locomotive shop. Dust and dirt are blown off the engine with air hose before painting creating an asbestos dust hazard. While spray painting the engine, the west end of the shop is filled with paint fumes and fine spray. Although this work is done at night when the least number of men are working, those in the shop complain of the dust and paint fumes. The painters of course wear approved respirators but is not consistent to put these respirators on all workmen in the part of the shop involved. It was recommended that an enclosed stall for spray painting locomotives be constructed on track 12 of Bloom-enginehouse and equipped with positive air blowers to remove the paint fumes and the large volumes of dust which arise when the engine is cleaned preparatory to painting. This room would have to be equipped with good light and sufficient heat to dry the paint rapidly. This would probably delay locomotives being outshopped from 24 to 36 hrs. but is undoubtedly the only way this lead and asbestos poisoning hazard can be eliminated.

Brazing

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Pipe gang | - | 3 hrs. per day. Need hood with exhaust fan. |
| Truck gang | - | Considerable. Need hood with exhaust fan. |
| Welding dept. | - | Southeast part of shop." " " " |

These hoods should probably have induced draft to insure positive ventilation.

Melting lead, babbitt etc.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Babbitting dept. | - | Needs hood with exhaust fan for pots according to G.M.A. committee. |
| Melting counter balance lead. | - | Should never be done with an acetylene torch. Should be done under hood with exhaust to outside. Men involved should wear "chemical-filter type C respirators." |

Handling Asbestos

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Asbestos grinder | - | Located in separate building outside shop. Man is equipped with approved hose mask. |
| Removing lagging from locomotives. | - | Carpenters doing this work were instructed to wear type A dust respirators - spray lagging before handling - and to handle carefully to avoid raising unnecessary dust. This work should be done at night when the minimum number of men are in the shop. |

Lye Vat

Attendent now uses a type C fume respirator.

Respirators now needed to supply needs of locomotive shop.

- 3 - Type A respirators for carpenter gang removing and applying asbestos lagging on boilers.
 - 1 - Type A dust respirator for shoe and wedge man while using portable grinder.
 - 1 - Type A dust respirator for truck gang.
 - 1 - Type C Extra respirator to be kept sterilized in the first aid room for extra man.
 - 1 - Type A Dust respirator for man operating portable grinder in air brake dept.
 - 6 - Type A Dust respirators for rod gang. A great deal of polishing and grinding is done by this department.
 - 4 - Type A Dust respirators for tool room for use when dressing emery wheels.
 - 2 - Type A respirators for air brake dept. for grinding.
 - 1 - Type C respirator for Mr. O. Jolly.
- Gus Beyer's gang needs the following:
- 2 Type A respirators for grinding.
 - 1 Type C for welding bronze.
 - 1 Hose type sand blasting mask for sand blasting interior of boilers.
 - 2 Type A respirators for boiler makers when grinding patches with portable grinders.
 - 6 Type A dust masks for Bloomington Power house coal handlers and conveyer attendents.