

DR-4881 MU-218 R-1



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY  
INCORPORATED

CHAMBERS WORKS  
DEEPWATER, NEW JERSEY 08023

November 5, 1980

Dr. Allen Associates  
c/o Barbara Brown, R.N.  
ERD - N-11400  
Wilmington

Dear Dr. Allen:

From the earliest time that I saw your rubber stamp placed on the x-ray reading card of a Chambers Works' employee that high lighted that the chest x-ray changes being observed may be asbestos-related, it caused me a great deal of concern. The reason for the concern is not an absence of Chambers Works having a concern about the employee's health and wanting to know if anything is amiss but it is a concern that the singling out of the word "asbestos" may heighten the working community's awareness about past asbestos exposure to an unnecessary high level.

I am fully aware that you are concerned with malpractice and do not wish to be considered as negligent in overlooking an x-ray observation but the attitude of the working community in the U.S. is litigation oriented and each time any medical entity befalls them the initial posture is that the illness was caused by their occupation. I do not think actual statistics can support that but as long as it receives press headlines and is news worthy to make such allegations, this myth persists. I propose there is no need to help perpetuate it unnecessarily.

I have voiced my concern to many different groups within the Du Pont Co. Each listens politely. None have taken a positive step towards stopping it. However, my immediate supervisor suggested that I write to you and get your views. Should you concur with me, the C&P Dept. of Du Pont might then take some positive steps in appealing to Corporate Medical to have the stamp that you are currently using modified slightly. However, if you do not concur, the stamp will persist and with it the heightened sensitivity of the litigation-minded worker.

DUP 0931920

BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING ... THROUGH CHEMISTRY

DU 035656

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Dr. Allen Associates

The stamp uses the words "could be due to previous exposure to asbestos or other irritant materials." I believe that the x-ray reading report would be just as complete if the statement excluded the words "asbestos or other." It would indicate there were x-ray changes. It would state the changes were possibly due to some irritant material. It would leave the determination of what that irritant material would be to an historical gathering by the inquiring physician. By this time, at least within the Du Pont Company, he should be well aware that irritant materials would include past exposure to asbestos and would consider that as he worked up the patient.

There is no intention to insult your intelligence but on scanning the appended list of substances which can cause a pneumoconiosis, it is rather obvious that asbestos is not the only substance in a worker's environment or even in his personal hobbies that could be a contributor in causing x-ray changes that might be associated with some irritant material.

I would appreciate your views in this matter and your consideration whether or not you believe eliminating the word "asbestos" from your x-ray reading report compromises you in any professional way.



William E. Neeld, Jr., M.D.  
Director, Medical Division

WEN/saw  
Attach.

CC: R. L. Wright

DUP 0931921

DU 035657

THE PNEUMOCONIOSES

Classification  
(H.S. VanOrdstrand, M.D.)

A. Those that are non-disabling (so-called "Benign"; due to inert non-fibrogenic dusts):

1. Siderosis
2. Stenosis
3. Baritosis

B. Those that are usually non-disabling and which may only be temporary (such as some of the occupational immunologic diseases):

1. Byssinosis
2. Bagassosis
3. Farmer's Lung
4. Maple Bark Disease
5. Mushroom Picker's Disease
6. Pigeon Breeder's Disease
7. Sequoiosis
8. Furrier's Lung
9. Coffee Worker's Lung
10. Vineyard Sprayer's Lung
11. Paprika Splitter's Lung
12. Cheese Worker's Lung
13. Malt Worker's Lung
14. Suberosis

ALLERGIC  
ALVEOLITIS  
CAUSING

C. Those which may be disabling and even fatal:

1. Silicosis
2. Asbestosis
3. Berylliosis
4. Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis
5. Shaver's Disease
6. Talcosis
7. Cristobalite Silicosis
8. Diatomaceous Earth Pneumoconiosis

DUP 0931922

DU 035658

Revised March 1973  
H. S. VanOrdstrand, M.D.

OCCUPATIONS POTENTIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH PNEUMOCONIOSES

ASBESTOSIS

Anesthetist  
Auto mechanic  
Brake manufacturer  
Carpenter  
Clutch manufacturer  
Filter maker  
Floor tilemaker  
Insulator  
Logger  
Mill worker  
Miner  
Roofer  
Shingle maker  
Shipbuilder  
Steam fitter

BAGASSOSIS

Cane worker  
Insulation maker  
Papermaker  
Wallboard worker

BARIOSIS

Barite miner  
Barite miller  
Ceramics worker  
Glassmaker  
Paint maker  
Rubber worker  
Well driller

BERYLLIOSIS

Alloy maker  
Bronze maker  
Ceramics worker  
Electronic tube maker  
Extraction worker  
Fluorescent lamp maker  
Metallurgist  
Missile worker  
Neon sign maker  
Nuclear energy worker  
Phosphor maker  
Propellant maker  
Toxicologist  
X-ray tube maker

BYSSINOSIS

Workers exposed to cotton dust

COAL MINER'S PNEUMOCONIOSIS

(See page 2 for complete classification)

COFFEE WORKER'S LUNG

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH

PNEUMOCONIOSIS

Workers exposed to calcining of diatomaceous earth

FARMER'S LUNG

Exposure to moldy forage

FURRIER'S LUNG

Workers with furs

KAOLINOSIS

Brick maker  
Ceramics worker  
China maker  
Miner  
Paper maker  
Potter

MALT WORKER'S LUNG

MAPLE BARK DISEASE

Lumbermen

MUSHROOM PICKER'S DISEASE

PAPRIKA SPLITTER'S LUNG

PIGEON BREEDER'S LUNG

SEQUELOSIOSIS

Lumbermen

SHAVER'S DISEASE

Abrasives makers exposed to the heat treatment of the ore bauxite

SIDEROSIS

Demolition man  
Fettler  
Flame cutter  
- Foundryman  
- Grinder  
Metal worker  
Metalizer  
Polisher  
Scarfer  
Shipbreaker  
- Welder

SILICOSIS

Abrasives worker  
- Bricklayer  
Brickmaker  
Ceramics worker  
Coal Miner  
Diatomite worker  
Enameller  
Fettler  
Filter maker  
Foundryman  
Glassmaker  
- Insulation worker  
Miner  
Motorman  
Polisher  
Sandblaster  
Shot blaster  
Stonemason  
Stonemason  
Stone driller  
Tunnel driver  
Quarry man

STANOSIS

Workers involved in the salvage of tin

SUBEROSIS

Workers with European oak trees from which cork is obtained

TALCOSIS

Cable maker  
Ceramics worker  
Cosmetic worker  
Miner  
Papermaker  
Plastics worker  
Rubber worker

DUP 0931923

11/6

Dr. Allen  
Bob Wells has written  
a letter to Dr. Allen  
suggesting that he remove  
the word "arthritis"  
from his radiology  
report.

I don't agree and  
would include the  
following points in a  
reply.

(1) There is no rubber  
stamp. Our replies  
are typed.

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(2) The ~~word~~ "arthritis"  
is appropriate in the  
report because:

(a) the lesions described  
are frequently associated  
with arthritis exposure

(b) arthritis is  
probably the most  
common fibrogenic  
agent to which  
chemical industry  
workers have been  
exposed - particularly  
in the mechanic craft.

(c) it is appropriate for a radiologist to suggest high probability differential diagnoses compatible with the lesions described in the film.

(d) to equivocate in the report for the alleged purpose of decreasing the litigation vulnerability of our employees is not compatible with the philosophy of our company and the goals of the current arbitral program - detect, inform, and evaluate.

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DU 035661