PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BEA-99

The Industrial Commission
Of Ohio
Division Of Safety & Hygiene
246 N. High St., Col., O. 43215

July 19, 1984

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

Re: O.D. #181520
Jack Seel
Koppers Company, Incorporated
800 Irving Wick Drive
Heath, Ohio 43056

Dear Ms. Spencer:

At the request at the Legal Section, Industrial Commission of Ohio a review of the claim of Mr. Jack Seel (O.D. #181520) was made for industrial hygiene opinion.

That claimant alleges that occupational exposure to asphalt and those chemicals used in the process caused him to develop dermatitis of the head, both hands, arms, and left foot as per form OD-1 dated November 18, 1982.

The diagnosis given on form C-16 dated March 28, 1983, is atopic eczema with second degree infection.

Dorland's Medical Dictionary 26th Edition, Defines Dermatitis as an "Inflammation of the skin". Dorland's also defines atopic eczemic by saying "1. see under dermatitis, 2. atopic dermatitis". According to Dorland's Atopic Dermatitis is "a chronic pruritic eruption occurring in adolescents and adults, of unknown etiology although allergic, hereditary, and psychogenic factors appear to be involved. The lesions occur chiefly on the flexural surfaces of the knees and elbows, but may involve other areas, and are marked by lichenification, exoriations, and crusting."

The claimant was employed at the Koppers Company, 800 Irving Wick Drive, Heath, Ohio, from August 2, 1979, to November 4, 1982. The claimant was employed as a laborer. His duties were to fill 100 pound packages with hot asphalt.

Asphalt is the heavy, solid-to-viscous fraction of crude petroleum consisting at natural bitumens.

2

Hazards

Handling of hot asphalt can cause severe burns because it is sticky and is not readily removed from the skin. The principal concern from the industrial toxicological aspect is irritation at the skin and eyes by fumes of hot asphalt. These fumes may cause dermatitis and acne-like lesions as well as mild keratoses on prolonged and repeated exposure. The greenish-yellow fumes given off by boiling asphalt can also cause photo sensitisation and melanosis.[1]

Conclusion

The claimant was diagnosed having a skin irritation. The claimant worked in an area were possible exposure to asphalt fumes existed. The available literature states that a relationship exists between exposure to asphalt fumes and dermatitis. Any further attempt to draw a relationship between the type of dermatitis that the claimant has and that caused by asphalt exposure would require a more thorough knowledge of dermatology.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Newman
Industrial Hygienist

RAN/thn

Reference:

1. Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety; Third Revised Edition; Volume 1 A-K, Page 199

3