CC: S. Pell

December 7, 1984

TO: M. T. O'BERG

FROM: C. A. BURKE CAB

CASE-CONTROL AND FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF
WORKERS WITH ASBESTOS-RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

W. E. Fayerweather's original protocol called for the collection and coding of work histories for cases and controls. These should be readily available for cases, since establishment of asbestos exposure potential was necessary prior to acceptance of responsibility by Du Pont. However, collection and coding of work histories for controls would involve considerable expenditure of time and effort by plant personnel, which I do not feel to be justified at this time, for the following reasons.

- The major objective of the study is to follow the course of asbestos-related medical conditions, especially those defined as benign asymptomatic. This objective must take precedence, as results from such a study could have numerous implications for the individual, his medical follow-up, and the legal/compensatory processes. Job histories are not necessary to follow progression of disease or development of malignancies; what happens to the individual once he has been diagnosed with an abnormality is of interest. This aspect of the study is prospective, rather than case-control, in design. We have a group of people, some with asbestos-related medical conditions, some without. By definition, all cases were exposed to asbestos, but among those without abnormalities, some will and some will not have been exposed. I would guess that the majority will at some time have been exposed to some level, however low, of asbestos. Comparisons within the group of persons with asbestos-related medical conditions may be useful in determining why disease progresses in some and not in others. We can also compare, as time goes on, the incidence of overt disease, malignancies, and death in those with and without abnormalities, regardless of their past asbestos exposure. Presence or absence of asbestos exposure may have been a contributing factor in the development of disease, but it would not be a prognostic factor once exposure had ceased. Duration