

April 11, 1949

The Medical Department
Industrial Commission of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio

In re: O D 4940-22
Michael Blasco

Gentlemen:

On April 5, 1949 a visit was made to the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, Youngstown, Ohio, to check conditions under which the above named claimant had worked.

The company manufactures steel products.

According to company records, claimant started to work for them on March 25, 1912 and worked until June 26, 1938.

During claimant's period of employment, he worked as a bricklayer on open hearth furnaces and did general brick work in the steel mill. He handled silica brick, fire and chrome brick.

The company has 15 open hearths and there is some repair on these furnaces all the time. On the date of visit, however, the company was not tearing down an open hearth.

It has been found, and this division recognizes, that bricklayers working on open hearth furnaces are exposed to various concentrations of dust. They have been proved to contain from 5% to 22% free silica by X-ray diffraction.

The company does not question the exposure to dust containing free silica which claimant inhaled while working for them. It contends, however, that the cause of the silicosis is purely a medical problem and that the real question at issue is the extent of the disability as a result of the silicosis, as distinguished from other causes of disability.

At the present time, claimant is at his home and is not working.

Very truly yours,

DON HARRA
SAFETY ADVISOR

DH:fni