PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BEA-96

February 28, 1975

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
Ohio Departments Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Risk #220620

Re: O.D. 161790
Henry Base

Attn: James Clymer

Dear Mr. Clymer:

In attempting to ascertain the conditions under which the claimant had worked, it was learned that his job of preparing mortar is no longer being performed by the firm that hired him nor by any other firm at the work site. Representative air samples could not be obtained; however, the following information may be of interest to you:

The claimant was employed by Koppers Company, Incorporated, Engineering and Construction Department, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This firm does contract work for Republic Steel's Cleveland facilities. Mrs. Harrington, telephone number 412-391-3300, extension 814, explained that the claimant was hired as a transient employee from a Cleveland union hall and that he was a laborer with the title of Air Tool Operator. All of his work while employed by Koppers Company, Incorporated was performed at Republic Steel in Cleveland.

According to company records, that may not be complete, the claimant's experience is as follows:

Started 11-20-57
Layed off 12-19-58
Started 12-7-59
Layed off 7-14-61

It could not be confirmed whether or not the claimant received a physical examination and X-ray.

Upon contacting the claimant, he stated that he worked at Republic Steel sporadically for 10 to 15 years making mortar for the repair of blast furnaces and the building of coke ovens. He also stated that he mixed the mortar ingredients in a shed that became dusty during this operation.

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Re: O.D. 161790
Henry Bass

Mortar is cement, a fine powder of burned lime and clay, mixed with sand and water. Cement used for mortar contains approximately 4 per cent silicon dioxide, and the sand could have been of high free silica content.

In studies of cement workers employed in cement plants it was concluded that there is a consistent association between work in cement plants and obstructive ventilatory impairment.

In conclusion, air samples representative of the claimant's exposure to dust could not be obtained because his work is not being performed on the job site at present, nor could it be confirmed when it would be done again. However, the materials he mixed indoors contained free silica that, without adequate control, would likely become airborne when handled or mixed, thus, exposing him to occupational dust containing free silica. There was no information available to ascertain the suitability of or existence of controls.

Sincerely,

Ron Sherman
Industrial Hygienist

RS:bjs

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