FILE NAME: General Electric (GE)

DATE: 1932 Mar 12

DOC#: GE131

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to NSC President from Mr. R.A. Bull, Foundryman & Researcher RE Importance of Accounting for Variables in Studies on Dust-Counts

Under the fair use provisions of the copyright law of the United States (17 USC 107), this single copy was produced for reference use only from material in Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, P.O. Box 208240, 128 Wall Street, New Haven CT 06520-8240 Unless permission is granted, neither this copy nor the words on it may be: reproduced in any form; used by an unauthorized person; or placed in the collections of any institution or individual.

ELECTRIC STEEL FOUNDRYMEN'S RESEARCH GROUP

Chicago, Ill.
March 12, 1932

Mr. C. W. Bergquist, President
National Safety Council
Pennsylvania Hotel
New York City

Dear Mr. Bergquist:

I enclose confirmation of day letter sent you today, which needs little in the way of explanation.

Allow me to state that you made a most favorable impression on each of the twenty-eight men present at the luncheon meeting held at the Palmer House, March 8, when I was present. It was perfectly obvious that you recognized the importance of such action by the National Safety Council regarding the report of the committee headed by Dr. Greenburg, as is consistent with the nature of the operations involved from the standpoints of health conservation and desirable shop practices.

Our telegram may enable you to emphasize the extent to which the foundry industry is concerned about this matter. The message was not sent you with any idea that you personally need reiteration of the statements already made regarding the factors of delay and careful, expert analysis that are now involved in the necessary holding up of the committee's report, prior to any definite action that might be taken on the basis of the report.

I take this opportunity of pointing out, as an experienced foundryman, who has devoted the last twelve years of his life exclusively to research work, cooperatively carried on in a number of plants, that there are a number of very important variables involved in the accumulation of reliable data on which to base recommendations regarding blasting equipment and supplies. It is fully appreciated that physicians are thoroughly familiar with research work in their own field, and that they recognize as fully as do engineers and metallurgists, the necessity for eliminating all possible variables when conducting a technical investigation, to determine the influence of a factor under consideration. Physicians could not be expected to realize, without being expertly advised, that there are many factors in blasting which are variables, and which I would judge, have not been satisfactorily provided for in the accumulation of data on dust-counts.

Among such variables are tightness of enclosure, velocity and volume of air pressure, mechanical ventilation of working space for the operator, condition of casting prior to blasting, and condition of casting after blasting. All of these conditions should be standardized as far as possible, in a manner that seemingly was not done in assembling the data in the report. If any of these precautions were observed and the fact is not made clear in the report, common sense dictates that the field notes be carefully examined by persons competent to judge such matters.

I take the opportunity of pointing out that a very vital factor included in

Under the fair use provisions of the copyright law of the United States (17 USC 107), this single copy was produced for reference use only from material in Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, P.O. Box 208240, 128 Wall Street, New Haven CT 06520-8240. Unless permission is granted, neither this copy nor the words on it may be: reproduced in any form; used by an unauthorized person, or placed in the collections of any institution or individual.

Under the fair use provisions of the copyright law of the United States (17 USC 107), this single copy was produced for reference use only from material in Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, P.O. Box 208240, 128 Wall Street, New Haven CT 06520-8240 Unless permission is granted, neither this copy nor the words on it may be: reproduced in any form; used by an unauthorized person; or placed in the collections of any institution or individual.

the entire proposition lies in the standardization, within practical limits, of the material cleaned in the blasting operation. It is not easy to standardize this item but it should be done, by all means, within the limitations that may be available. Specifically, the castings to be cleaned should all be of the same degree of uncleanliness prior to blasting; and, following that operation, should be of the same degree of cleanliness. You can appreciate that dust-counts made when castings are being blasted, happen to have been, let us say, 25 per cent unclean to start with, would necessarily be very different from dust-counts taken in cleaning castings that were 75 per cent unclean at the beginning. This variable is apt to exist when data are assembled from different plants. The resultant figures would be very different with any single kind of abrasive material, either metallic or mineral.

Anyone who is thoroughly familiar with the blasting of castings would agree to these statements. No one who has had no familiarity with such work, would be apt to think about that, without prompting by an experienced individual.

I trust you will not consider this letter as unnecessarily increasing the volume of your correspondence on this very important subject.

Finally, allow me to state that the members of my organization are fully sympathic with the objects of the National Safety Council, which they have supported, and are strongly desirous of doing everything that can consistently be done to safeguard the health of their employees.

Furthermore, these companies appreciate warmly the nature of the service men like yourself are gratuitously rendering for the public welfare.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) R. A. Bull
Director

Under the fair use provisions of the copyright law of the United States (17 USC 107), this single copy was produced for reference use only from material in Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, P.O Box 208240, 128 Wall Street, New Haven CT 06520-8240. Unless permission is granted, neither this copy nor the words on it may be: reproduced in any form; used by an unauthorized person, or placed in the collections of any institution or individual.