PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
REK-25

Behind the Scenes IN SAFETY AND HEALTH

February 14, 1986

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: [redacted]
R. E. Kramig Company, Inc.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Attention: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

A visit was made to the offices of the R. E. Kramig Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 14, 1986. The purpose of the visit was to investigate the occupational disease claim filed by [redacted]. [redacted] alleges he developed asbestosis as a result of exposure to asbestos while working as an insulation worker.

The R. E. Kramig Company is an insulation contractor. Company employment records indicate [redacted] was hired on May 3, 1960. He is still employed by the company as a mechanic. As a mechanic, the claimant has performed both the removal of existing insulation materials and the installation of new insulation products. Typical worksites have included refractories, boiler rooms and power plants. Mr. Ed Hoffmeier of R. E. Kramig did indicate that the claimant has been exposed to asbestos during the installation and removal of asbestos containing materials.

In Dr. Kelly's letter dated January 12, 1985, a diagnosis of asbestosis is given. Dr. Kelly states that "There is sufficient evidence to make a diagnosis of asbestosis in [redacted] given the symptoms, radiographic findings and pulmonary function abnormalities." Dr. Kelly states that [redacted] impairment is 20%. In addition, a history of smoking is given along with relevent information concerning the synergistic effects known to exist between asbestos exposure and cigarette smoking.

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The relationship between exposure to asbestos and the development of asbestos related diseases is well documented in the literature. Exposure to significant concentrations of asbestos has resulted in the development of asbestosis, mesothelioma and cancers of the lungs and digestive tract.

The development of asbestosis usually occurs gradually over a 10-30 year period of exposure. However, rapid development has been observed following relatively brief, but high exposures. Asbestosis is commonly associated with restrictive physiological lung impairment in which the earliest impairments involve the gas exchange and diffusion capacity. These early impairments are detected only during periods of activity. As the disease progresses, however, symptoms resulting from gas exchange and diffusion abnormalities are detectable at rest and are related to a reduction in pulmonary functions.[1]

In summary the claimant, [redacted], has worked for R. E. Krami, since 1960. He was exposed to asbestos, the extent of which is difficult to assess.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ashworth

Mark Ashworth, CIH

MA:GJB

References:

1. NIOSH, Occupational Diseases, A Guide to Their Recognition. DHEW, 1977.

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