



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

HASKELL LABORATORY

FOR
TOXICOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

bcc: S. Pell - N-11400
D. R. Diggs - N-7451
D. G. Fowler -
Lead Industries Assoc.

January 13, 1965

Mr. Kurt Raht, Research Engineer
Research and Development Division
The Consolidated Mining and
Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd.
Trail, British Columbia, Canada

Dear Mr. Raht:

Don Fowler has told me that you might be interested in a co-operative study of the health of persons exposed to lead.

Our study is just getting underway and has several parts.

Part I is a study of absences from the plant by production areas. The assumption made in this portion of the study is that the number of absences will reflect in a rather general way the health of the various groups of workers. When the area absentee rates are compared, it seems reasonable to assume that if all the rates are similar then no significant difference in sickness rates exists between one area and another. The converse of this is not necessarily true because absentee rates may differ between areas for reasons other than those connected with the health of the employees. Part I is therefore a crude, screening technique which might indicate whether the men exposed to lead have the same sickness rates as other employees.

Part II is a more detailed study and involves recording the duration of each man's service for every man on the plant and whether or not he has worked in the lead areas. If he has worked in the lead areas then the duration of this potential exposure to lead is recorded. Next the medical records of all the employees who have worked in the lead areas will be studied as well as those of a control group of men matched for age and length of service. The health records of the two groups will then be compared.

Part III. Since in Parts I and II we are dealing only with those men now employed, it is valid to assume that if there were a health hazard associated with working in the lead areas that those who are now so employed are the employees who are tolerant of this hazard. It is then a fair question to ask, what happened to those that left the plant after having been exposed to lead? To answer this question we are setting up a study which will

Mr. Kurt Raht

- 2 -

January 13, 1965

examine the records of everyone who worked in the lead area six years ago and follow them year by year to see what happens to them compared with a control group similar in all respects except that these employees did not work in the lead areas.

We are anxious to enter into a co-operative study for two main reasons.

1. Our employees are largely exposed to lead alkyls and data are needed on men exposed purely to inorganic lead.
2. Lead has been suggested as causing, or being associated with, a multitude of diseases some of which, such as multiple sclerosis, have a low incidence in the general population. To prove or disprove such an association with lead requires the study of a much larger population than is available to any one company. Therefore a co-operative study is essential.

If you would be interested in undertaking such a study, I suggest that a meeting be set up to include myself and representatives from your medical department together with Dr. Sidney Pell, the bio-statistician who is associated with me in our study.

Sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
G. J. STOPPS

G. J. Stopps, M.B., B.S.
Chief, Physiology Section

GJS/dyb

Note: Same letter to Max Johnson, M.D., The Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty., Ltd., Port Pirie, South Australia, with exception of last paragraph which reads:

If you would be interested in undertaking such a study, I suggest that you let me know whether the type of study I have outlined would meet with your approval and, if not, what you would like to see altered.