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GENERAL ELECTRIC X-RAY CORPORATION.

CHICAGO.

Report - G.E.
June 20 1931

This was my first visit to the plant.

General conditions are good and the management seems to be fully aware of the peculiar problems concerned with protection against the injurious effects of radiation. This is, of course, the chief hazard. In addition there is some hazard from silica-containing dust.

Protection against radiation is provided by lead-lined walls and doors, lead sheeting along the cracks of doors, lead glass and very thick concrete floors, but in addition they follow a routine practice of exposing very sensitive dental films in different places for the detection of any possible escape of rays. The devices for the automatic shutting off of electric current before the workman can remove a tube are very good.

The ventilation in the Coolidge tube room is a difficult problem and not yet solved. It seemed to me that they might install a hood such as they have placed in the neighboring room over the ether work.

The silica dust occurs in the removal of dried putty by rubbing with sandpaper and in sandpapering fired goods to prepare them for a second coating. The first job is done over slotted benches provided with exhausts, but the men do not avail themselves properly of this protection. The second job has no form of protection. Since there is no medical department these men cannot be given the routine examination for the early detection of silicosis which is the practice in all the other plants of the Company.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

GE 398

HULL-HOUSE
800 SOUTH HALSTED STREET
CHICAGO

About 12 highly skilled men work here. In the little center room there is a small tank of HF to clean glass by momentary dipping. One man does it, wearing rubber gloves. The tank is not hooded and no fumes can be perceived. The strength is only 1 part in 33. The large room next is dark and has some small ovens, but windows are open. 6 women here.

Pumping, to exhaust, is entirely enclosed. Hg pumps used, controlled by men looking through panes of lead glass. All walls are lead-lined. They test continually with very sensitive dental films as routine. There are excellent fool-proof devices for shutting off current before tube can be taken out. Even the cracks of the doors are provided with projecting lead. Floors are of thick concrete & rays do not penetrate more than 7 inches of it.

One small room has soldering & a lead kettle ca. 5 inches diameter, kept almost boiling hot. One woman uses it. The flux is weak ZnCl₂ gives no trouble. Shellac here is made with denatured. They do nickel plating but have no nickel itch. Copper plating, galvano, no chromium. Parts are sprayed, 50 lbs pressure, with G. J. Nikolas 1227 Van Buren st. c.e. 5 trainer