Midland, D. D. News
1105-C1

Asbestos - cancer study being made

MONTREAL (AP) — Canadian asbestos mining companies are sponsoring a project to gather factual information about any relationship of asbestos to lung cancer and other diseases.

The project is under the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, set up by the industry in 1966. Findings would be used to establish methods of avoiding diseases or reducing their dangers.

It is known that inhalation of asbestos fibres can cause some persons to develop asbestosis, in which fibres gradually replace living tissue, says Dr. Pre[illegible]ysl Pelnar of the Institute.

Some physicians believe exposure to asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer. Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital New York City, reports that 40 per cent of 36,000 U.S. asbestos insulation installers could eventually die of lung cancer as a result of their occupational exposure.

"So far it is not proved to our satisfaction that there is a link between asbestos and mesothelioma," a rare form of cancer occurring in the upper chest wall or stomach lining, says Dr. Pelnar. "But findings in various parts of the world in recent years that persons suffering from mesothelioma had in some cases been occupationally exposed to asbestos make careful research necessary.

"It could be," he adds, "that materials coming into contact with asbestos during the mining or milling processes are health hazards." If such causes were determined, they could be eliminated from the manufacturing process.

The institute's most important offshoot at the moment is a three-year epidemiological survey being carried out by a McGill University research team. Part of the team's job is to examine the health history of thousands of asbestos workers and draw statistical conclusions.

In addition to supervising the epidemiological survey, the Institute acts as a center where information from research teams all over the world studying asbestos-related diseases is filed and analyzed.

Paul Filteau, general manager of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association, whose member companies set up the institute, said in an interview the institute's annual $250,000 budget is meant to keep the companies in touch with relevant research everywhere.

"No actual research is done by the institute. We make grants to scientists who are working in a particular field connected with asbestos diseases and ask only that they tell us first of their findings," he commented.

"Afterwards we are happy when they publish their findings because it helps to spread general knowledge and avoids duplication of research."

1105-C2

A trade magazine

ASBESTOS MENACE—Three important government agencies are refusing comment after receiving warnings from medical researchers that the nation's 350,000 shipyard workers may be threatened with mesothelioma, the rarest and fastest-killing of all incurable cancers. Author of one of the reports is Dr. Irving Selikoff of New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Two years' study at Mount Sinai involving 1,000 autopsies has left Dr. Selikoff in no doubt that shipyard workers, by inhaling heavy concentrations of asbestos dust, are uniquely prone to crippling lung diseases. That's bad enough. But mesothelioma is something infinitely grimmer. Spoken of with dread even by hardened cancer specialists, the malignancy rapidly smothers lungs and heart.

Earlier findings by Dr. Selikoff, plus latest reports from British health authorities, provide harrowing evidence that boilermakers, fitters, welders, and others working in close confines with asbestos during ship overhaul run a high risk of contracting mesothelioma. All the evidence has been rushed to the Navy Department, Labor Department, and the Public Health Service. What, if anything, will be done with the data hasn't been announced.

ST000066-1A

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

DOW-1044

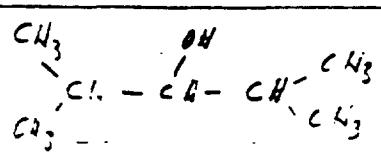
ST0000665

Ray:
I got this sheet thru the plant mail from a FIU superintendent.
Larry

1105-D

ST0000666

4-9-69



diisopropylmethanol

1. Keppler out of town on 4.9.69

talked to Chas. Low - Ventil. Engineer for ~~Ind.~~ Dept of Health Indiana

a. Fiberglass dust is an irritant (skin)

b. Dep. on nature of operation

State Safe Laws - all Ind Hygiene Laws covered by State Laws; Labor Div. → Low, et. al.,

2. Low knows of no reg. in Indiana on fiberglass

3. call J. Fred Keppler on 4.10.69

4. 4.15.69 Ernie Caid - no regulations against Fiberglas (Dow Indianapolis)

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Tel: 61436 - R. Sherwood (Spencer is his boss)
(Union Steward)

Dr. Andrew C. Offyett (6337490)
Indiana State Health Comm. of State
1330 W. Mich St. tel: 6334000
Indianapolis, 46207

← Fiberglass →

J. F. Keppler / Chas. Low
Dir. Ind Hyg.
Ind. State Health. Comm.

Mich State Dept.

Hustis - still there ← J. White (Ingrid, Mich) ← Swamfield

Mensch - still

(Dir. Public Health.)
Health Dept. Ind. Studies
Lansing

P. Jervis - Chief factory Inspector
State Labor Div.
6334473

ST0000667