PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-246

Dr. Wheatley
Assistant Medical Director

In Re: - Tuberculosis Mortality in Thetford Mines

Thank you for the chance to read Dr. Gardner's interesting letter.

There is evidence enough in the facts at hand of a bad situation as regards tuberculosis in Thetford Mines. I should think that crude death rates of 259 and 300 per 100,000 in the general population in years as recent as 1941 and 1942 would be warrant enough for any group interested in public health to make a most intensive study of the causes behind it. A study of the death rates by sex and age covering a period sufficiently long to produce significant death rates would give a very good indication of whether or not asbestos was involved. Relatively high death rates among adult males associated with average or only slightly above average death rates for children and for women, would point to asbestos as a likely cause, inasmuch as it is apparent that a large percentage of adult males are employed by the asbestos mines and mills. On the other hand, relatively high rates from the disease for all classes of the population would indicate that asbestos had little to do with the situation. It would be well to determine about what proportion of the adult males were employed by the asbestos mines and mills.

I suggest that you try to secure from Dr. Parrot or from some other agency, separately for each of the following classes, death rates for the age periods given on his table covering males in the Province of Quebec, or, if available by five year age periods up to 65.

(a) Males and (b) females of the Dominion
(a) Males and (b) females of the Province of Quebec
(a) Males and (b) females of Thetford Mines
(a) Males and (b) females for localities in the vicinity of Thetford Mines

Since there were only around 13,000 people in Thetford Mines in 1942, it would be well to have the statistics cover as many years as is practicable so as to avoid fluctuations in the death rates due to small exposures at the various ages in each sex.

R. J. Wane
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Supervisor
Occupational Ratings

July 31, 1944.
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