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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Dr. Rennie, VP of NY Office, from Dr. Blackwell, Medical Director with Thoughts RE Proposed Talk to Employees at Winchester about Asbestos

May 13, 1976

Mr. D. K. Rennie
Vice President
New York Office

Re: "Asbestos Write-Up"

Dear Don:

I have been giving considerable additional thought to the request made of me to speak to all the employees at Winchester on the total subject of Asbestos as it relates to medical, safety, hygiene, the x-ray bus, OSHA, etc. It isn't going to be an easy subject. I know what I would have to say and the way in which I feel it would have to be delivered if I did it.

If they want some discussion on industrial hygiene measures put in, projections, etc., for the health and well being of the employees, I almost think that I would like to include Dave Gidley on the program just for that purpose.

When it comes to general information regarding asbestos and health, I can easily do that. I have even thought about having our plant physician, Dr. Melton, doing it since all the employees know him quite well. He would be respected by them and this would keep it in a lower key than if I were to do it. If he did, however, I would have to provide him with much of the medical information and from this standpoint, I believe it would be preferable for me to speak rather than Dr. Melton. However, I think it would be advantageous to have him there also.

I can also speak, of course, on the chest x-ray program. The fact that we have, I believe, seven (7) marginal or borderline cases is not to our advantage. If I speak, I feel that some mention of this would have to be made.

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I have to present the entire subject rather objectively. The plant may or may not wish this but from the standpoint of a physician, there is only one way in which I can do it, as I hope you can appreciate.

Yesterday I read that the AIA (Asbestos Information Assoc.) which Erich Feierabend is active in, has available through Johns-Manville a 16mm. film and 35mm. slides on "Working with Asbestos." From the brief description provided, it appeared this was general information on Asbestos for the rank and file employees. I wrote yesterday to the AIA for information regarding the film and slides. It is entirely possible that this might answer much of any need for the same by the Friction Products Group in Winchester. I would like to preview it and afterwards see what I feel would be best.

C. C. Blackwell, Jr., M.D.
Medical Director

CCB:np

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