PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
REK-29

Together, we can make Ohio jobs safer.
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO

November 5, 1986

Ms. Judy Spencer
Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: [redacted]
Employee - [redacted]
Employer - R. A. Kramig Co.

Attn: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

[redacted] is a member of yet another group of workers who were exposed to asbestos and a variety of other dusty materials over their work lives.

There are many variables which determine the degree of exposure and the type and severity of response to hazardous materials such as asbestos.

[redacted] was an insulation installer whose job was to attach pre-made insulation to piping, ductwork and other components of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC).

Such workers would not be exposed as frequently, for as long a period of time, or as high levels as those who have been involved in spraying insulation or dumping bags of dry asbestos into mixers. They would, however, have significant exposures for brief periods while sawing pre-formed insulation pieces or application to pipes and ductwork. In some cases, the insulating material (lagging) is mixed like plaster and applied wet to the pipes. When wet, dust is not generated, so exposures would not be high during this phase of the operation. Mixing, of the insulation material would be somewhat dusty, however, as it would be handled dry from bag to mixer, where water would be applied.

Work practices in all these situations have changed significantly in recent years. The handling of any dusty loose, fibrous material, especially asbestos, has been changed so that minimal amounts of dust are generated, in addition, workers have been given respiratory protection as the hazards of asbestos exposure have become more widely known.

2

0000 1017

In the early years of his employment, [redacted] was very likely exposed to more airborne dust, including asbestos, than in the past ten to fifteen years.

In the Federal Register, Volume 51, No. 119, Friday, June 20, 1986, Final Asbestos Rules and Regulations, OSHA states that "Asbestos exposures occur during various activities. For example, such exposures occur when installing A/C pipe and sheet ------. Workers involved in the maintenance and repair of pipes, boilers, or furnaces in a wide variety of buildings are also exposed to asbestos." Several tables are presented showing worker group sizes and estimated 8 hour time weighted average exposure levels in fibers/cc. The number of workers in the activities most resembling [redacted] job were 217,745 and 259,643. Their exposure levels were 0.29 and 0.51 fibers/cc. Neither of these levels reflects high risk for asbestosis and related respiratory diseases.

[redacted] condition, as diagnosed by Dr. Egilman, is mild asbestosis. Most of his medical data was inconclusive, however, which is not unusual for early stages of the disease. It is very difficult to diagnose by x-ray and pulmonary function testing alone. [redacted] pulmonary function tests are all near normal for a man of his age, weight, height, etc. A mild respiratory problem might be expected of an ex-smoker, even though he hasn't smoked in several years.

Dr. Egilman states "There are both inspiratory and expiratory rales and rhonchi and expiratory wheezes." The text "Occupational Lung Diseases," by Hans Weill states "Expiratory wheezes or high pitched rhonchi, are relatively infrequent, fine rales are typically confined to inspiration" (in asbestosis patients).

Clearly a difference of opinion exists in the symptoms indicative of asbestosis.

In summary, [redacted] has certainly had the potential of exposure to asbestos during his many work years. Not all exposures to hazardous materials produce harmful results, however, and personal habits, such as smoking, can contribute to serious diseases, even years after exposure and smoking, or either, cease.

[redacted] has a very mild respiratory condition that could have been caused, at least in part, by his job.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

James S. Ferguson, CIH
Industrial Hygienist

JF:rf

3

0000 018

RECORDS CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, an employee of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this reel of microfilm or microfiche are complete and accurate reproductions of the original records of the S+H as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established procedure of this department to microfilm its records for permanent file and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.

William D. Kaye
SUPERVISOR, Microfilming Unit

John Frey
Name (Camera Operator)

6-12-87
Date

6-12-87
Date

20008, 10.16