NEW YORK OFFICE

ABEX

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT AB-10

June 13, 1972

Mr. N. G. Belury
New York Office

RE: Asbestos Controls --
Occupational Safety and Health Regulations

Reference to S. Hillman's note to you of June 7, 1972 regarding the article in the Wall Street Journal of the same date.

Please be advised the proposed new regulations limiting concentrations of asbestos to two fibers per cubic centimeter of air starting July 1, 1976 will affect us at our Brakeblok operation in Winchester but there is nothing that we cannot overcome. Presently the law permits concentrations to five fibers per cubic centimeter of air and in a recent study we were within those limitations at 80% of the dust samples taken at Winchester and believe that by improved hooding, etc. all operations will come under the five fiber limitation.

At over half of the work stations sampled at Winchester we are within the two fiber limitation and again we feel by increasing air and improved hooding we can meet the new regulations.

Of course, as a last resort, we can be in immediate compliance by the use of respirators by the employees, however, we prefer not to do this since they present a morale problem in that they highlight the hazard and are uncomfortable to wear.

As you know, we have participated with the U. S. Public Health Service in a continuing survey of all employees at Winchester since 1965. Consequently, we have been working on effective control of asbestos dust since that date --- the new regulations simply have intensified our efforts.

Attached hereto is a copy of an article from the New York Times of June 13, 1972.

Don

D. K. Rennie

/d
Attch.
BC: C.H.Borcherding
E. H. Feierabend
F. E. Tayler
J. J. Sheffield

SPNY 006089

ABEX-111

SCF-ABEX-1460

ASBESTOS RULINGS HELD INADEQUATE

Cancer Authority Says Many Workers Face Death

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 12—An authority on asbestos-caused cancer said today that tens of thousands of workers exposed to asbestos would die because of inadequate regulations issued by the Government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The prediction was made by Dr. Irving Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, in a report to a meeting of the industrial union department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations at the organization's headquarters here.

Dr. Selikoff said that, if the Federal agency showed the same disregard for essential safeguards and precautions in setting standards for other toxic substances as it demonstrated in the asbestos regulations, "we face an unparalleled disaster to the working people in our country."

"The regulations speak blandly of five fibers per milliliter [as] 'standard' but neglect to add that a working man inhales from four to eight million milliliters in an eight-hour day" he said. A milliliter, or cubic centimeter, holds about a thumbleful of air.

In a direct reference to Assistant Secretary of Labor George C. Guenther, who heads the safety agency, Dr Selikoff said, "Mr Guenther orders that workers exposed to asbestos in any trade are required to work under conditions which permit them to inhale 20 million or even 30 million fibers in a working day."

Mr Guenther made this statement after hearing of the doctor's charges "Dr Selikoff has chosen to overdramatize the matter There is no question that exposure to asbestos is most hazardous."

"We believe" he said, "that the new standards will provide substantial and real protection for exposed workers and that they provide for reductions in levels of asbestos exposure that are reasonable and in our judgment, based on tests from many quarters."

Precautions Seen Ignored

Dr Selikoff, who has long been engaged in research on the cancer-producing effects of asbestos and the incidence of cancer of the lungs, abdomen and colon, said "Almost every essential precaution that could have been taken has been ignored or discarded, in many instances against the recommendations given to the Department of Labor by the Public Health Service's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [a branch of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare] or by its own advisory committee on asbestos dust."

The asbestos standard issued by the Labor Department agency last week provided for an exposure limit of 2 fibers per cubic centimeter of air but said the present emergency standard of 5 fibers would continue until July, 1976. It also provided a maximum exposure limit of 10 fibers per cubic centimeter for an eight-hour day. The institute had recommended a maximum daily exposure of 5 fibers.

72 Deaths From Cancer

Dr Selikoff cited a study of 689 asbestos production and textile workers from January 1, 1959, to December 31, 1971 He said that it showed 72 deaths from all types of cancer compared with an "expected rate" of 27 8 for the population as a whole. From cancer of the lungs, pleura, trachea and bronchus, there were 35 deaths, compared with an expected rate of 8 4 for the population generally.

In addition to the 72 cancer deaths, there were 24 fatalities traceable to scarring of the lung. This malady is found only among asbestos workers the doctor said There are about 500,000 Americans currently or previously employed on asbestos work.

"If our experiences of the past several years are a guide, 100,000 will die of lung cancer, 35,000 of abdominal or chest cancer known as mesothelioma and 35,000 of asbestosis [scarring of the lung] as well as many thousands more of other cancers, such as those of the colon, rectum and stomach, Dr Selikoff said.

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