FILE NAME: Westinghouse (WH)

DATE: 0000

DOC#: WH092

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Clayton (Air Pollution and Industrial Health Consultants) Letter Describing Poor Industrial Hygiene and Working Conditions at Westinghouse

Clayton Little describes geology and coal occurrences at Whse (undated)

GEORGE D. CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
AIR POLLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS
14125 PREVOST
DETROIT 27 MICH
VERMONT 8-0088

(D R A F T)

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Paul Tuttle
Plant Manager
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

On Friday, November 10th, Mr. E. W. Speicher, Administrator of Industrial Hygiene for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and the writer visited your plant to evaluate the environmental conditions of your plant, to determine if there were any agents, both physical and chemical, which would account for the respiratory illnesses which have occurred amongst your employees. We were briefed on the history of the disease by Mr. W. A. Ritchey, Industrial Relations Engineer in your plant.

Environmental samples were taken to ascertain the degree of chemical pollutions present. A report will be sent upon completion of the chemical analyses.

With respect to the physical agents however, during the course of the investigation it was readily apparent that the ventilation in your plant was poorly designed and very inadequate. There were excessive drafts; air distribution was poor; and people were subjected in some cases to extremely poor environmental conditions and many other instances to poor conditions. Although I am not a physician, it is my belief that the ventilation in the plant could very well be

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WM 500

To: Mr. Paul Tuttle

the cause of the respiratory complaints of ~~your employees~~ Particularly those concerned with difficulty in breathing.

You will note that one of the puzzling factors of "Westinghouse disease" was that there was no common denominator; that the symptoms of the employees varied. It is my belief that the extremely poor working conditions to which the employees are subjected could lower their resistance to the point where they would be readily susceptible to any passing virus. The exhaust ventilation in many locations was completely inadequate, no chart, such as for drying freshly painted metal and other places were over-ventilated. These conditions have been brought to your attention by Mr. Speicher causing drafts to be created in the past, but apparently were ignored. As you recall, I mentioned these factors at the time of my oral report, and you and your ventilation engineer stated that this was an "unusual" situation; that during the summertime the work environment is hot and unbearable, and during the wintertime the fresh air vents are closed, and therefore it could readily be seen why the atmosphere could become stale and obnoxious.

It is my recommendation that you adopt modern ventilation in your plant. I was surprised and disappointed to see that a company such as Westinghouse would subject its employees to the conditions I found in your plant. It is quite obvious that fans have been installed, both to bring in air and to exhaust air, with little or no engineering. It is my recommendation that you immediately institute a thorough study by a competent ventilation engineer, under the direction of Mr. Speicher who is very knowledgeable in this area, to determine the method and

cost of providing a comfortable working environment in your plant. It is conceivable, due to the type of structure of your plant, that you will find it necessary to supply cooling air during the summer and heated make-up air during the winter. You indicated the extreme cost-consciousness of your company. Therefore you might initiate a study to determine the cost of proper ventilation versus lost time by the employees. Any concern your company has for its employees would be on the "plus" side.

You should keep in mind that you are dealing with a highly sensitive work population, and any illnesses, whether or not justified, will be blamed on the work atmosphere, and therefore special cognizance must be made of this fact.

Very truly yours,

GDC:f

George D. Clayton
President
GEORGE D. CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

GEORGE D. CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.
AIR POLLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS
14123 PREVOST
DETROIT 27, MICH.
VERMONT 6-0088

(D R A F T)

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Paul Tuttle
Plant Manager
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

On Friday, November 10th, Mr. E. W. Speicher, Administrator of Industrial Hygiene for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and the writer visited your plant to evaluate the environmental conditions of your plant, to determine if there were any agents, both physical and chemical, which would account for the respiratory illnesses which have occurred amongst your employees. We were briefed on the history of the disease by Mr. W. A. Ritchey, Industrial Relations Engineer in your plant.

Environmental samples were taken to ascertain the degree of chemical pollutions present. A report will be sent upon completion of the chemical analyses.

With respect to the physical agents however, during the course of the investigation it was readily apparent that the ventilation in your plant was poorly designed and very inadequate. There were excessive drafts; air distribution was poor; and people were subjected in some cases to extremely poor environmental conditions and many other instances to poor conditions. Although I am not a physician, it is my belief that the ventilation in the plant could very well be

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WM 500

To: Mr. Paul Tuttle

2

the cause of the respiratory complaints of ~~the employees~~ Particularly those concerned with difficulty in breathing.

You will note that one of the puzzling factors of "Westinghouse disease" was that there was no common denominator; that the symptoms of the employees varied. It is my belief that the extremely poor working conditions to which the employees are subjected could lower their resistance to the point where they would be readily susceptible to any passing virus. The exhaust ventilation in many locations was completely inadequate, and other places were over-ventilated, such as for drying freshly painted metal parts. These conditions have been brought to your attention by Mr. Speicher in the past, but apparently were ignored. As you recall, I mentioned these factors at the time of my oral report, and you and your ventilation engineer stated that this was an "unusual" situation; that during the summertime the work environment is hot and unbearable, and during the wintertime the fresh air vents are closed, and therefore it could readily be seen why the atmosphere could become stale and obnoxious.

causing strong drafts to be created.

It is my recommendation that you adopt modern ventilation in your plant. I was surprised and disappointed to see that a company such as Westinghouse would subject its employees to the conditions I found in your plant. It is quite obvious that fans have been installed, both to bring in air and to exhaust air, with little or no engineering. It is my recommendation that you immediately institute a thorough study by a competent ventilation engineer, under the direction of Mr. Speicher who is very knowledgeable in this area, to determine the method and

cost of providing a comfortable working environment in your plant. It is conceivable, due to the type of structure of your plant, that you will find it necessary to supply cooling air during the summer and heated make-up air during the winter. You indicated the extreme cost-consciousness of your company. Therefore you might initiate a study to determine the cost of proper ventilation versus lost time by the employees. Any concern your company has for its employees would be on the "plus" side.

You should keep in mind that you are dealing with a highly sensitive work population, and any illnesses, whether or not justified, will be blamed on the work atmosphere, and therefore special cognizance must be made of this fact.

Very truly yours,

GDC:f

George D. Clayton
President
GEORGE D. CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.