

MINUTES OF A MEETING ON ASBESTOS DUST HAZARD IN MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

Meeting held in Mr. Seigle's office, December 29, 1933.

The following were present at the meeting:

Mr. S. Simpson }
Mr. M. F. Judd } Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Mr. E. M. Voorhees }
Mr. W. R. Seigle }
Mr. S. A. Williams } Johns-Manville Corp.
Mr. Vandiver Brown }

Mr. Voorhees stated Johns-Manville's situation as follows.

Our policy has been, to provide the best means possible that we know of, with respect to eliminating dust hazards in our manufacturing operations.

Our future policy with respect to this matter is, briefly, to have the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company undertake a check-up of the dust conditions in our various departments, and thus obtain their opinion on the present efficiency of our dust collecting systems; and to back this up ourselves by training one or two individuals within our own organization, with the help of Dr. Lanza, in making dust counts, so that periodically in the future we can find out exactly what the conditions are within our factories. On top of this we anticipate having the most able engineer or engineering firm to check the actual efficiency of the dust collecting system which we have in effect and to make recommendations with respect to the improvement thereof.

From the viewpoint of the industry with respect to this matter it is our opinion that, rather than make it a Code matter or an Industry matter, the problem be handled on the basis of personal contacts with the individual manufacturers of asbestos products, giving them the opportunity to come into a standardized operation and split the cost on the basis of the work performed for each individual manufacturer. In our contact with Dr. Lanza we find that he is very willing to perform these operations of checking the dust conditions and giving us his advice, on a very, very favorable arrangement, which means that we are practically to pay only the out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their representatives.

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Up to the present time we have discussed this matter with only Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. We haven't discussed it with anybody else. Mr. Dewey has asked us for information, and we have asked him to come to New York and talk the matter over. We took this position purely from the standpoint that we didn't want to discuss the problem except with those who are directly interested in the combined situation and those who are willing to pay for the information developed. Each company would pay its own expenses in connection with the surveys made by Dr. Lanze. However, in connection with the expert, the proportion of that expense which each company will split will be decided later.

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After a general discussion of the entire problem, it was decided that Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. and Johns-Manville Corporation would together avail themselves of the opportunity of having the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company bring up to date the survey with respect to dust conditions in their respective factories. For the purposes of accomplishing this and obtaining the maximum results, a co-ordinating committee consisting of the following gentlemen would be formed:

Mr. O.H. Gilley, Plant Manager of the Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. plant at Manheim, Pa.

Mr. J. Heinsohn, Plant Manager of the Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. plant at Charleston, S.C.

Mr. S.A. Williams, Vice-President in Charge of Factories and Mines of Johns-Manville Corporation.

Mr. Vandiver Brown, of the Legal Department of Johns-Manville Corporation.

It was decided not to appoint a chairman of this committee, but Mr. Vandiver Brown was appointed secretary and it will be his duty to arrange the various meetings of the committee.

The policy of the two companies concerned is that they desire through the operation of this committee and the resulting investigations to obtain, each for itself, the best practice possible for the elimination of dust and the protection of employees.

It was decided that this committee would contact Dr. Lanze, arrange for the work to be started, and obtain Dr. Lanze's recommendation with respect to locating or developing an expert whose services might best be utilized from the standpoint of court work in connection with dust elimination.

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It was thought desirable that the two respective companies proceed with this work, as soon as practicable, before approaching other members of the industry, and that at this time the third company to be approached would probably be the Multibestos Company.

With respect to publicity. While it may be desirable because of changing conditions to publish the first report of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., our past policy of keeping this matter confidential is to be pursued and the question of publicity deferred until such time as the second report is available for our analysis.

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Mr. Vandiver Brown arranged with Dr. Lanza this morning to hold a meeting on Thursday, January 4th, 1934, at 2.30 P.M. in the offices of Johns-Manville Corporation, 22 East 40th Street, New York City, and in addition to Dr. Lanza and the above-named committee, it was understood that the secretary would ask Mr. A. R. Fisher and Mr. D. C. Ranton, from Manville, N. J. to attend the meeting.

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