

MR. G. D. LLOYD

Firestone
INTEROFFICE

TO MR. T. C. WALKER

RECEIVED

MAY 9 1975

DATE MAY 7, 1975

FROM R. S. BROOKMAN

G. D. LLOYD

REFERENCE

SUBJECT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA STUDY

On May 6, 1975, I attended a meeting in Akron to discuss the results of the above study. Attending were:

Mr. Robert Spirtas - University of N. C.
Dr. S. Grivas - NIOSH/CDC
Mr. L. Belizsky - URW
Mr. P. Glenn - URW
Dr. L. H. Ballou - Firestone
Mr. R. V. Hassmiller - Firestone

I am attaching a copy of the full report to Dr. Diaz's copy of this memo and a summary letter plus Table 3 to all others. I will have the full report in my office should anyone want to read it in detail.

This report is to be presented on May 16, 1975 to a URW group and again in early June at an AIHC (American Industrial Hygiene Conference). All reference to Firestone and Pottstown will be deleted for public presentation.

In brief summary, the report points out two potential VC health related problems:

1. Temporary symptoms characteristic of central nervous system disorders were noted in chemical plant workers. These were more predominant as the estimated exposure to VC increased. These symptoms are reported to be transitory and reversible.

It is important to bear in mind that these results are based upon compilation of data accumulated from questionnaires completed by our employees and does not represent data from personal interviews or from actual physical examinations.

2. A temporary drop in lung function over the period of a working day unnoticed by the employee and completely temporary and reversible. This data was actually accumulated by running pulmonary function tests on employees at the time of reporting to work and again at the end of their work shift. In all cases a group of rubber workers was used as a control group.

It is important to note in both studies that no chronic effects were noted due to VC exposure when the Chemical Plant group was compared to rubber workers.

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Mr. Spirtas has asked us for the following:

- a. Clearance to release the paper on the basis of proprietary information. I completely reviewed the document and other than the deletion of the words "Firestone" and "Pottstown" find nothing of a confidential nature. We are, of course, bound by contract to allow public release of UNC information.
- b. UNC would like additional VC exposure information prior to and after the institution of the OSHA controls. I will try to accumulate this information through Mr. G. D. Lloyd. I did tell Spirtas that we have little data earlier than January 1974 on exposure levels.
- c. Dates and times of installation of VC control equipment. I will answer this in a general way.
- d. Need to have the specific job titles of reactor cleaners who enter vessels. I will obtain this.

The only portion of the report that troubles me is Table 3 (attached) which shows spot VC exposure data taken by the UNC personnel during late March 1975. Some of the numbers are too high, particularly those from the calendering plant. I will try to correct by submission of our data which represents a better statistical base.



R. S. BROOKMAN

RSB:djs

Attachments

cc: Mr. C. J. Kleinert
Mr. H. N. West
Dr. L. H. Ballou - Akron
Dr. F. T. Diaz
Mr. R. W. Arnold
Mr. G. D. Lloyd
Mr. R. A. Park

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