FILE NAME: DuPont (DUP)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to C.I. Smith, Director of Production-Pigments, Wilmington from E.L. Rodowskas, Plant Manager with Attached Conference Summary - Asbestos Dust Inhalation, May 5 & 6

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY

PIGMENTS DEPARTMENT

A. B. Friel, "
J. F. Morgan, Haskell Lab.
D. G. Windsor, S & F, Wilm.
E. L. Rodowskas, Newport
L. S. Muir, "

Newport, Delaware
August 25, 1970

C. I. Smith
Director of Production
Pigments - Wilmington

ASBESTOS DUST INHALATION
Ref: C. I. Smith's Letter
to E. Gonick of 2-16-70

A conference on the above subject was sponsored by Haskell Laboratory on May 5 and 6. Attached is an interim report. A. D. Volk will assume the responsibility for this subject in the future.

E. L. Rodowskas, Plant Manager

By: D. F. Reddish/A. D. Volk
Employee Relations

DFR/ADV:br
Attachment

This is Exhibit No. 75 on the examination of ..... in ..... held on ..... 19 ..
PAUL W. ... Special Examiner
TORONTO

ASBESTOS DUST INHALATION

May 5 and 6 Conference

Information presented showed asbestos dust inhalation to be a more serious hazard than has previously been realized. High concentrations* of asbestos dust occur when handling pipe and tank insulation, particularly removing old insulation. These concentrations can cause Fibrosis (Asbestosis), Pulmonary Carcinoma and Mesothelioma (Cancer) to the lungs or chest cavity. Statistically, cigarette smokers are most susceptible.

Haskell Laboratory is conducting an evaluation of the health problems related to handling asbestos. The evaluation will be complete and published within the next few months. Information presented below is recommended to be used by our plants as a guide in establishing safe work procedures until more complete information is available.

Guidelines are:

- Asbestos workers should be given a pulmonary function test as part of employee's normal physical examination. Followup testing is recommended every year. The Jones Pulmonor Function Testing Machine is recommended (approximately $230.00). Additional information can be obtained from Wilmington Medical.

- Inform employees working with asbestos insulation of the related health problems. This should be handled without unduly alarming people.

- Substitute other types of insulation for asbestos when practical.

- Prevent unnecessary dust through careful handling when opening cartons, etc.

- Provide a separate room for primary sawing operation. Enclose electric cutoff saws with clear lucite. An industrial type vacuum cleaner attached to the saw with disposable bags for burying is helpful. Clean room with vacuum often, using dust respirator for personal protection.

- Wet old insulation before removing and wear a MSA Dustfoe 77 Respirator.

* Five fibers/ML of air is considered to be a safe limit in a work area for 8 hours.

May 5 and 6, 1970 Conference

- Mix ground asbestos in plastic bags.
- Restrict personnel access to areas where insulators are working.
- Minimize the application of asbestos by spray methods. When spraying is necessary the following requirements should be met:
  a) The spray area be completely enclosed by tarpaulins,
  b) Area be vacuum-cleaned after application and,
  c) The sprayed-on asbestos insulation in air circulation plenums or ducts be coated with a sealant to preclude eroded asbestos from getting into the air of the building.

DPR/ADV:bc
Newport Pigments

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