



PPG INDUSTRIES, INC./ONE GATEWAY CENTER/PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15222/AREA 412/434-3846

December 18, 1970

LEE E. GRANT, M.D.
Medical Director

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Subject: Environmental Control Program
- Port Allegany Plant

On December 1, 1970, I visited Port Allegany and discussed the subject program with Mr. George Gregory, who has recently been appointed the Corporate Director of Environmental Control by Mr. E. W. Holman, Vice President of Manufacturing.

The foundation of the plant environmental control program must rest upon maintaining current reliable information on in-plant exposure levels of dust, heat, noise, and other potential health hazards to which employees may be exposed. In the past, such information has been obtained by consultants or by State Health Department personnel. Such information has formed the basis of engineering changes to reduce these exposures. The most recent example of this are the dust control ventilation system changes made in the unibestos plant. Dr. Morton Corn's October 23, 1970, appraisal of the effectiveness of these changes was very favorable, although he pointed out some things that must be done to maintain the asbestos dust exposures at safe levels.

Because recent research has indicated that a polyurethane foam dust, especially prepared to be of respirable particle size, was carcinogenic to the rat when inhaled, the undersigned asked Dr. Corn to study the dust concentrations and particle size distribution produced in cutting operations in Plant 6. Dr. Corn's study showed that although considerable dust was generated, much of it was not of respirable size. The concentrations of respirable dust were low, when judged by inert dust standards, but the dust collecting equipment was poorly maintained and, therefore, greatly reduced in its efficiency. At the present it is recommended that the maintenance of the dust collecting equipment be improved and that employees working in Plant 6 have annual chest x-ray examinations. The Society of Plastics Industries has established an Environmental Health Committee to further investigate the health hazards that may be associated with polyurethane foams.

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Mr. Gregory advised that Dr. Morton Corn has agreed to provide continuing consultation on environmental pollution and control to the Corporation and to the Port Allegheny Plant. Dr. Corn will develop, with the plant, a program to maintain current and reliable information, not only on the in-plant exposures, but also on air pollutants coming from the stacks and water pollutants coming from the plant effluents. Dr. Corn will also continue to work with the plant in developing environmental controls needed for the plant to remain in compliance with the appropriate State and Federal requirements.

Lee E. Grant, M.D.
Medical Director

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cc: Mr. George Gregory
Mr. E. W. Holman
Dr. Morton Corn