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United States Rubber Company

STARK, REID AND ASBESTON PLANTS
HOGANSVILLE, GEORGIA

file 0010 Hogansville

Industrial Relations Dept.

January 16, 1958

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SAFETY SECTION

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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Mr. Frederick W. Sands
Central Safety
"1230"

SUBJECT: 1957 Asbeston Medical and X-ray Survey

Your letter of December 9 to Mr. A. C. Link, forwarded to me in Mr. J. E. Sullivan's letter of December 12, refers.

Enclosed are (I) a chart showing dust counts in the Asbeston Plant by year and number of current active employees hired in each year 1942 through September 1957, and (II) a summary of findings of our Asbeston Medical and X-ray Survey made in 1957 by Dr. John G. Wells, internist of Newnan, Georgia.

We are also forwarding as enclosure (III) Dr. Wells' report on Roy W. Cornwell, Asbeston employee from July 19, 1945, to April 1, 1957, when he was transferred to the Stark Supply Room. This report will show you, in a way we cannot describe, the thorough job Dr. Wells did in his examinations and correlation of medical, clinical and X-ray findings. He submitted to us a detailed written report of this kind on every employee.

In his study of X-rays Dr. Wells uses twelve viewboxes so that he may compare all of the individual's chest films at one time. This method is far superior, in my opinion, to the one used by Dr. Grady, who in recent years requested only the last four films of each individual for comparison. In cases of lung changes characteristic of asbestosis these changes are clearly apparent in the comparison of the individual's 1947 and 1957 chest X-rays. Incidently, Dr. Pendergrass sent Dr. Wells a reducing (de-magnifying) glass, which Dr. Wells finds most useful in the film examination of the lung as a whole.

Please note that in cases where X-ray and/or clinical examinations showed evidence of asbestosis or some chronic lung infection or suspicious lung condition, Dr. Wells has gone beyond the routine examination by making cardiograms and, in two cases, a bronchoscopy.

Dr. Wells has recommended an examination every six months instead of yearly in certain cases either diagnosed as characteristic of asbestosis or suspicious. We have authorized him to make these six-month examinations as he sees fit.

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In setting up this program early last year, we personally talked to every employee in Asbeston, explaining to each the purpose of the program. The immediate reaction and subsequent reaction, to the best of our knowledge, has been most favorable. As you know, Dr. Wells personally interviews each person after the physical examination and after his study of the individual's chest X-rays. He reviews his finding, both clinical and X-ray, with the individual. In the event he discovers any known or suspicious condition not related to the lungs, he informs the individual and advises him to see his family doctor. In the event he finds lung changes or markings that are alarming, he advises us to remove the person from the Asbeston plant. In such a case, the individual is taken to Dr. Wells' office where Dr. Wells reviews his findings with the person and shows him his X-rays on the view-boxes. He does an excellent job of "telling" —— and in no instance has he unduly alarmed the person. As a matter of fact, his interviews have been reassuring to the individual. Dr. Wells has further taken advantage of every opportunity in such interviews to strengthen the Company's position and help promote good employee relations.

Please note that of the eight persons referred to in Paragraph A of Enclosure II, three were removed from the Asbeston plant before 1957, and the other five were moved in 1957 as recommended by Dr. Wells. Since the report (10/8/57) we had the opportunity to move another employee (a Negro) who had lung changes indicative of early asbestosis. That brings the total moved to nine. As you will note in the report, we have twenty-two (22) persons, including the nine already moved, that Dr. Wells is concerned about, and who may in time have to be moved from Asbeston. There are four others with lung conditions that bear watching, but which in no way are related to asbestosis.

We have already made all our X-rays for the 1958 survey, and Dr. Wells plans to start his examinations in February. At the end of our 1958 medical and X-ray Asbeston survey we will give you another summary, and, in the meantime, will keep you informed of any noteworthy situation which may arise.

I trust you had a satisfactory and pleasant visit in Uruguay. Kindest personal regards.

J. W. Alexander/lr

cc: Mr. J. E. Sullivan - TPM
Mr. A. C. Link/Mr. R. R. McGee - Building