FILE NAME: Baldwin (BALD)

DATE: 1986 Oct 21

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Worker's Comp Claim Info Sent to the Industrial Commission of OH from J.S. Ferguson, Ind. Hygienist

October 21, 1986

Ms. Judy Spencer
Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: OD 307-27
Employee - Leroy Frazee
Employer - Lima Locomotive Works
(Out of Business)

Attn: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Mr. Frazee is a member of a relatively small group of former asbestos insulation workers who are at very high risk of developing complications and/or diseases of the respiratory tract due to exposures to asbestos.

Insulators in most cases were exposed to very high levels of dust during application and removal of asbestos insulation. In the steam locomotive era, it was often necessary to remove or apply asbestos in bulk to the boilers of the locomotives. These operations were carried out in enclosed spaces with little or no protective equipment. During the years prior to 1971 and particularly during the late forties and fifties, the usage of asbestos rose to an all-time high.

Mr. Frazee has been diagnosed as probably having asbestosis. There also are X-ray findings to indicate possible progression to the most serious of asbestos-related diseases - mesothelioma. One puzzling factor is the latency period. In this case, it has been thirty-seven years. Usually, ten to twenty years is expected before symptoms begin to appear. Longer times are not unheard of, though. This may be one of the exceptions.

One complication and contributory factor is present however, - that of smoking. Mr. Frazee is an admitted one pack per day smoker for forty-three years. This personal habit is responsible for more chronic respiratory problems than all other causes combined. When combined with asbestos exposures, smoking increases the likelihood of asbestosis, lung cancer and other complications many times over.

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In view of his work at the Lima Locomotive Works, it is very likely that exposures occurred at high levels and for long periods of time sufficient to cause respiratory complications including asbestosis and related diseases. The smoking, of course, is a complicating factor.

With the other findings in Mr. Frazee's medical exam, the ultimate outcome of his problems seems apparent.

If I can be of further assistance in this claim, please let me know.

Sincerely,

James S. Ferguson

James S. Ferguson, CIH
Industrial Hygienist

JF:rf

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6-12-87
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