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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

FD-1349

Inter Office

Personnel and
Organization Staff

Mr. Paul E. Tzth

April 28, 1978

Subject: Asbestos Exposure-Cleveland Casting Plant

An investigation of Mr. Woody Thompson's death was conducted at the Cleveland Casting Center on April 25, 1978. Short meetings were held with D. Simmons, D.O., Messrs. G. Short, Security Supervisor, R. Hisnay, Supervisor Worker's Compensation, R. Finnessay, Worker's Compensation Administrator/also former floor supervisor in Mr. Thompson's department, and R. McDaniel, Floor Supervisor, Department 4789.

In general, the operation of concern was a two-shift operation consisting of repair welding on cast parts. This operation was initiated in 1951 and was terminated in November of 1976. (The job was free effort and no production standards existed for it.) Approximately 35 to 45 people were employed on this job at a time. A total number of employees holding this classification was not obtained. An attempt was made to determine if all employees formerly employed in this operation could be identified. This question could not be fully answered but it appears that identification will be somewhat difficult requiring review of individual records.

An attempt was made to define conditions of the operation (furnace welding) which would influence employee asbestos exposure. A plant layout of the cleaning room is attached with the position of employees doing repair welding shown in red.

Mr. Thompson's job was repair welding on heads or blocks. These parts were preheated in a furnace to facilitate welding (maintain welding temperature and stress relief of parts). To provide radiant heat shielding while performing the operation sections of asbestos millboard was used. The sections of boards would vary in size and shape due to the type of repairs being made. The asbestos board would have been shaped by the employee to expose minimal surface area of the part.

Information concerning medical responsibilities in this case was received from Dr. Simmons. A review of the record indicated that on May 6, 1977, Cleveland Casting Plant medical department was informed of the diagnosis of Mr. Thompson's mesothelioma.

Mr. Thompson's medical jacket contains five chest x-rays, the most recent being 1974. It was normal procedure to give yearly x-rays to employees in this area. It would seem that procedural problems (difficulty with scheduling, noncompliance by production personnel with medical requests) precluded getting x-rays for every year of Mr. Thompson's exposure.

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I was informed that medical records of other employees in the area should contain the same type of data.

Dr. Simmons also checked the OSHA log during our interview and found that Mr. Thompson's death was not reported or recorded. This case was not considered recordable.

Discussions with Mr. Himay revealed that no other cases are pending on asbestos related disease from this or any other area of the plant. However, it was reported that two other deaths of former department 4789 employees have occurred. These do not appear to be asbestos related. Death certificates are enclosed.

Discussions with Mr. W. Kosicky, Material Control Clerk, revealed that the material used was asbestos millboard, 42" x 48" x $\frac{1}{4}$ ", supplied by Allan Packing Company. The current manufacturer is Philip Carey.

Allan Packing Company has been the supplier for the years of production use except for an approximate three-week interruption of supply.

Mr. Kosicky's estimate of usage was 50 sheets per month during the production welding operation.

Keith Lee
Keith Lee

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Attachments

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Attachment

The shaping of the board was done by simply scoring the asbestos millboard with a sharp object and breaking it. It was stated by both Messrs. McDaniel and Finnessy that no grinding, sawing, or power cutting of any type was performed on the boards.

Mr. Finnessy and Mr. McDaniel both stated:

- a. The area was clean relative to other areas in the plant
- b. Employees did not wear respirators. However, welding faceshields or goggles were worn by the welders
- c. Housekeeping in the area was above average
- d. No training in the hazards of asbestos was conducted for the employees
- e. Employees were supplied with Company issued coveralls and those may have been taken home
- f. Little abuse of the asbestos boards occurred, except to write names of messages on them with the acetylene gas (this left a black residue on the boards)
- g. The boards were not used as bumpers or parts stops
- h. Some employees, as personal preference, ate or smoked at their job location
- i. Each employee did his own shaping of the asbestos boards. In some instances, the set-up man might prepare a few boards for the welders but generally each man made his own
- j. No air blowoffs were remembered
- k. The area was well supplied with air-supply ventilation to provide air for cooling. There was no exhaust ventilation
- l. Neither man could remember any habit unique to Mr. Woody Thompson which would have increased his exposure greater than other employees in the area
- m. The asbestos was disposed of with any regular rubbish generated in the department, no special provisions were made for it
- n. Furnaces used in the area were not lined or insulated with asbestos
- o. Material was delivered to the area in 42" x 48" x 1/4" sheets

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