



MINUTES OF THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

AIR HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 4, 1956

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

D. R. Holmes
Ralph Smith, General Asbestos
Dr. Kenneth Smith, Johns-Manville
Mr. George Griswold, Southern Asbestos

MORNING SESSION

/1

The first item on the agenda was the discussion of ~~Asbestosis and Cancer~~ ~~in relation to the Taylor case at Lancaster, Pa., in which a state referee decided the case in favor of the employee on the basis of finding an Asbestosis-Cancer relationship.~~ This decision was made by the referee on the basis of writings by Dr. Hueper of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

It is Dr. Kenneth Smith's opinion that most medical men consider that a normal X-Ray pattern must be shown in order to establish an Asbestosis-Cancer relationship.

Prior to this meeting a memorandum was received from Industrial Hygiene Foundation entitled PROPOSED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF LUNG CANCER IN ASBESTOS WORKERS FOR THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE.

There are two questions raised in reference to this memorandum -

1. Whether there is a relation between Cancer and Asbestosis, and
2. Whether a relationship exists between Lung Cancer and considerable exposure to asbestos fibres and dust.

There are about 2,000 workers in this industry whose employment records could be a basis for such a survey. During the weeks of April 23rd and May 7th, visits were made to seven plants of the Asbestos Textile Institute. Conferences were held with representatives of management from each plant. The purpose of this visit was to determine the extent of availability of medical records and employment records in a period of time covered by them. Each plant was questioned regarding the number of known cases of Asbestosis and Lung Cancer, if any.

The I.H.F. advises that there are at least 1,800 asbestos textile workers employed under observable conditions for periods sufficiently long to get a total of no less than 15,000 person-years. They also advise that this should be an adequate basis on which to predict with 90% accuracy, providing the plant incidence is actually higher than that in the general population.

It is anticipated that the field work for such a study would consume approximately six months. An analysis of the data and any necessary review in preparation of the report an additional six months. On this basis, cost of the

SPNY 004946