

Vinyl Resins

Dr. R. E. Joyner
Union Carbide Chemicals Company
P. O. Box 471
Texas City, Texas

December 23, 1957

Dr. H. F. Smyth, Jr.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Roy:

We do not know of any literature reference as to the effects of finely divided vinyl resins when inhaled. The only exception might be the article published by Dr. Rex Wilson on plastics in which he mentioned that they are considered inert dusts.

I remember having routine chest X rays done on those employees at South Charleston who were exposed (some for many years) to these dusts and found no evidence of abnormal changes in the lungs incident to such an exposure. The films were read by a competent X-ray specialist.

Nevertheless, even though such dusts are considered inert, the exposures in the packing departments, etc. have been in excess of 50 million particles per cubic foot of air breathed. There is the possibility that a claim for emphysema might be made based upon an excessive exposure to an inert dust.

I do not think the findings at your plant indicate any abnormal chest findings either from this exposure. By copy of this letter, I am asking Henry if he knows of any literature reference as you requested.

Very truly yours,

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Thomas W. Hale, M. D.

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From the Office of
Roy E. Joyner, M. D.
CARBIDE & CARBON CHEMICALS CO.
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

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INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE &
TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

FOR DR. T. WALE

DATE

R_p

Tom:

Do you have any references
on studies done re toxicity of Vinyl Resin
dusts by inhalation? — I can find no
references in past 10 yrs. — If you know
of any, please let me hear from you.

Thanks.

R. Joyner

M. D.

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