DR. L. V. CRALLEY

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE November 24, 1959

FROM: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE TO: MESSRS. L. T. LETSINGER & W. F. KNEELAND

DAVENPORT WORKS



CONFIDENTIAL

RE: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was held by the above Committee on November 12th, 1959. Thcse in attendance were: R. L. Beauchamp, B. L. Tiedemann, J. H. Lowry, Dr. L. A. Block, B. D. Kent, and R. J. Nemetz. Minutes of the August 19th meeting were read and the following items discussed.

The Committee was advised that Remelter has for the past several weeks used a mixture of 75% Bunker "C" oil and 25% gas. So far there have been no complaints of sulphur fumes and it was generally agreed not to take air samples until perceptible traces of sulphur dioxide fumes are present.

Mr. Tiedemann advised the Committee the R-181 unit on our X-2020 operation still needs a proper hood; however, he pointed out that such a hood should not be too difficult to devise. The Committee was further advised that considerable revision and repair has taken place during the past month on our exhaust ductwork in Remelter. This has considerably improved the fume problem and Remelter does not anticipate any further difficulty unless the ducts should become clogged. This would then be just a matter of cleaning out the ductwork. The Committee was also informed that proper respirators have been made available to production and maintenance people who are involved with our X-2020 operation. Brick masons and other Maintenance personnel who work inside this furnace are required to wear respirators. Mr. Tiedemann also pointed out that we no longer process X-2020 skim. The skim is being hauled away and isolated at the dump.

During our August 19th special meeting, the Committee informed Mr. Bonney that some years ago we debated the possibility of securing a device which would better

enable us to pinpoint chlorine leaks above the holding furnaces; however, we were unable to recall exactly what kind of a detector it was or the manufacturer. Mr. Bonney suggested that we were probably referring to a Turner Halied Gas Leak Detector. Such a detector has been purchased and it appears to be doing a very good job in pinpointing chlorine leaks. Mr. Tiedemann pointed out, however, their Maintenance people have been reluctant to use this new method and it will be necessary, over a period of time, to do an educational job in this respect. While on the subject of chlorine, it was developed at times masks are not being worn by Maintenance people when working above such furnaces. Mr. Beauchamp questioned the hazard of such a practice. It was explained that the masks now available for this purpose are the type which cover the face completely and are attached by flexible hose to an oxygen cylinder. This is bulky and awkward and employees are reluctant to secure this type of protection. The Committee then discussed the possibility of obtaining a small mask or respirator similar to the one now in use at our X-2020 operation (880-C) that would give adequate protection to the employee for approximately 20 minutes or so, yet small and handy enough so our Maintenance people would be willing to wear it. The Safety Department will investigate further the possibility of securing chlorine filtering cartridges which would be interchangeable with our 880-C respirators.

Mr. Tiedemann also advised the Committee that they are now in the process of working on a skim cooler which will help eliminate smoke and hot boxes. The system will also increase the value of dross enabling the Company to salvage a financial return.

It was pointed out by Mr. Lowry that it is his understanding that the Company now has inquiries out concerning chlorinators. He stated that according to A. A. Aerni, if one of these manufacturers can assure us that their chlorinator will inject the proper amount required to eliminate our situation in the Foil Mill, it appears the Company may make such a purchase. After quite some discussion, the Committee agreed that there is no doubt but what a chlorinator would improve the taste and smell of

Foil Mill water. The Committee strongly recommends this matter be followed through as rapidly as possible since it has been under discussion now for about two years. Mr. Kent then reported that he recently examined the trial sink in the Foil Mill. He found no evidence of pitting; however, the bowl appears discolored undoubtedly due to the great amount of iron in the water.

During the August 19th special meeting, the Committee discussed the sanitary condition of coffee canteen dispensers. Mr. Kent stated that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Gustafson and was assured the coffee dispensers are being cleaned and sterilized regularly.

Mr. Kent then brought the Committee up to date in regard to our X-ray gauges. He pointed out that after considerable correspondence with various monitoring agencies, we have secured badges which will satisfactorily meet our needs. The badges have been purchased and a record has also been devised to comply with the necessary information required by Mr. Bonney and Mr. Tucker. It is anticipated that monitoring should begin within the next two or three weeks.

The Committee was further advised by Mr. Kent that the Safety Department recently had received several reports concerning the use by production of Toluene from the standpoint of toxicity and fire potential. At No. 6 Slitter, production required a solvent or cleaning agent to remove excessive oils from metal. Mr. Lowry stated the Chemical Laboratory had been called in on this experimental operation and they had suggested the use of Solox rather than Toluene. The Committee agreed that a close watch should be kept on this operation both at No. 6 Slitter and Closure Line. It was further pointed out by Mr. Lowry that originally the Hygiene Committee had requested of the Storeroom to be notified when any new materials or chemicals were received; however, this line of communication seems to have broken down. Mr. Kent stated that he was at this time investigating the situation and agreed that a number of new and untried chemicals have been received in the past without the direct knowledge of the Hygiene Committee and in many instances had it not come to our

attention by way of rumor, we probably would never have known about it. The Committee recommended that Mr. Lowry, Mr. Kent and possibly Mr. Huey discuss this matter with Mr. C. B. Petree in an effort to establish some method of keeping the Hygiene Committee informed.

R. J. NEMETZ

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