FILE NAME: Allied Signal Bendix (ASB)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Summary of Bendix Awareness of Connection Between Dusts and Pneumoconiosis

Bendix Products Corporation Director of Personnel K. Selby was aware of the potential for dusts to cause pneumoconiosis and had employed the chest X-ray as a means of diagnosis. In 1932, he wrote to Dr. Anthony Lanza at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, one of the leading experts on pneumoconiosis in the United States, asking Lanza to review some workers' X-rays and offer an opinion on whether they had "silicosis".

Brake linings were a major market for asbestos by the 1930s, and there appeared articles on asbestosis in brake manufacturing workers by Lanza and co-workers in 1935, Pennsylvania state authorities Fulton et al. in 1935, and other authors reporting over 100 cases from Massachusetts in 1939-1940. Grinding of molded brake parts was recognized as capable of causing asbestosis by government authorities in Connecticut (1934) and Great Britain(1935). A General Motors industrial hygienist reported in 1948 that brake lining and surfacing operations were equipped with local exhaust ventilation to protect workers from asbestos dust. Full references for these publications are provided in chapter 8 ("Asbestos Disease in Brake Repair Workers") of my book, **Asbestos: Medical and Legal Aspects.**