

JUNE 11, 1954

With respect to the room in which asbestos cloth is being cut and sewed, the air samples did not indicate exposure to concentrations of asbestos dust above 5 million particles per cubic foot, which is presently regarded as the maximum allowable concentration. However, I have a feeling that these concentrations may vary from time to time in the room. It would be very desirable to ventilate the room more effectively so that the amount of asbestos dust in the breathing atmosphere would be further reduced. When sheet material is being thrown from one bench to another, the concentrations of asbestos fibers in the breathing atmosphere of the sewer in particular would appear to be potentially hazardous. As you know, in the State of Pennsylvania, when a person's chest contains some silicosis and it becomes superimposed with tuberculosis, that this disease becomes consumptive. I believe that the same is true in the case of asbestosis. Frequently, the early stages of asbestosis or silicosis are difficult to detect by X-rays and it is also believed that persons suffering from beginning stages of asbestosis or silicosis are more likely to develop tuberculosis. We have such a case in Compensation Court from one of our clients at the present time and they are difficult cases to handle.

- I will greatly appreciate knowing what your final decision on this problem will be.

7. P.S. These dust samples were found to contain only fine particles which would indicate they being very hazardous.