

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

October 26, 1964

Mr. John T. Cantlon
Consulting Actuary
40 W. Third Avenue
Columbus 1, Ohio

CX-3000-51



Dear John:

I just returned from New York where two International Meetings were held on Asbestos, the Biological Effects of Asbestos, sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences from October 19-21 and the meeting of the International Union Against Cancer from October 22 to October 24 to plan and coordinate international research on the relationship of asbestos to cancer.

I thought it would be advisable to write to you now, because of the importance of the papers presented, the information developed and the implications pertaining to asbestos which warrant serious consideration.

The proceedings of both meetings will be published. It is believed the New York Academy of Sciences publication and distribution may occur any time from 6 months to one year. For the International Union Against Cancer, this may occur within the next 6 months, and there will be worldwide distribution.

I shall only attempt to provide you with an analysis and evaluation of the information and data presented during these 6 days, which I consider the most important. I shall defer to a later Conference discussion, the more specific details which substantiate the basic points made.

1. There is now agreement on an International level, from the facts and evidence presented, that there is an irrefutable association between asbestos and cancer. At present this association has been established for cancer of the lung and of the pleura and of the peritoneum (in the form of mesothelioma). There is suggestive evidence but not established for cancer of the stomach, colon and rectum also.
2. There is now substantial evidence, that cancer (mesotheliomas) have developed in environmentally exposed groups, ie. due to air pollution groups, living near asbestos plants, and asbestos mining operations, but not occupationally exposed.

A

3. Evidence has also been established for cancer developing among members of the household, ie. relatives of workers who are employed in the asbestos plants. Cancer (mesotheliomas) have developed among wives, laundering the work clothes of asbestos workers.
4. There is usually a very long latent period, ie. between first exposure and the development of the cancer. Although the cancer has occurred in less than 20 years, the elapsed time from first exposure to development of cancer may extend to 60 years. Cancer cases appearing now, are directly related to the small asbestos tonnage imported 20 to 40 years ago. With the greatly increased tonnage of asbestos imported into the United States in succeeding years from Canada and elsewhere, it can be expected, as the requirements of the latent period are fulfilled, that large numbers of lung cancer of the lung, pleura and peritoneum in the form of mesotheliomas will be accumulating rapidly in the United States among the populations previously exposed. (Evidence has also been provided of the development of mesotheliomas in individuals who were exposed to asbestos as children, while living near asbestos mining operations).
5. Substantial evidence has been presented that slight and intermittent exposure, may be sufficient to produce cancer of the lung and of mesotheliomas of the pleura and peritoneum, secondly, that asbestosis or marked fibrosis of the lung due to asbestos, is not a pre-requisite to the development of lung cancer, but rather that the cancers can occur, without the development of such marked fibrosis.
6. Initial findings of the national study of the United States Public Health Service on asbestos workers, substantiates the association between asbestos workers and cancer mortality.

Although there are a number of other points, those already mentioned are sufficiently broad to express the health hazards involved and the medical legal ramifications, in terms of medical supervision, Workmen's Compensation, and legal liability

This requires consideration now and coordinated planning by Philip Carey for all its operations, for its mining and milling, production and sale of its asbestos products.

B

John T. Cantlon

-2-

October 26, 1964

There should be no delusion, that the problem will disappear or that the consumer or working population will not become aware of the problem and the compensation and legal liability involved.

You may wish to discuss the broad points made, with the Philip Carey Company. I believe they would be very much interested in the findings presented at this Conference.

Personal regards,

Tom
Thomas F. Mancuso, M.D.
Research Professor

TFM/a

C

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES - TOLEDO 1, OHIO

①

January 5, 1950



Dr. Arthur J. Vorwald, Director
The Saranac Laboratory
Saranac Lake, New York

Dear Doctor:

We are wondering whether you could give us some word about how the animal experiments on the inhalation of Kaylo dust are developing. The last progress report we have is dated April 30, 1949.

At the end of this report the recommendation is made that the experiments be continued for another eight months--or possibly 14 months. Since eight months would take the work through December of last year, and since that is so recent that the microscopic examinations may not be completed yet, perhaps you could give us right now more or less of an informal progress report.

Our Kaylo Division is reviewing its policies on medical procedures for the people in their Sayreville, New Jersey, plant. Before any major changes are made in our present medical program, Dr. Shook and Mr. Howard want to know how your animal dusting experiments are progressing.

With personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bill

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIVISION

W.G.Hazard:M

P.S. Incidentally, our records show that the last check we sent you was in July 1949. It was our recollection that we were going to pay for this quarterly--on receipt of quarterly statements from your laboratory. Could you check this for us?

cc - Mr. C. W. Howard
Dr. C. F. Shook

*Call in...
the instructions given
to the...
for...
the...*

56-172