PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT E-124

Sr Tuss N Reuter } Comments
E E Barth } + Recommendations } ANB 10/13

LIBERTY MUTUAL

10/20

1890 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06505 · Tel. 288-5661

October 10, 1972

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Mr. A. S. Basil
Cerro Corporation
Cerro Wire & Cable Company
285 Nicoll Street
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Basil:

On October 3, 1972, a meeting was held to discuss the noise exposure to employees of the New Haven Plant. Representing Liberty Mutual were Miss E. Bodnar, Senior Health Consultant, Mr. Ralph G. Noyes, Industrial Hygienist, and the writer. During this meeting we also discussed the asbestos program as was confirmed in my letter of October 3, 1972.

Rather than confirming our visit with three separate letters, I am including both Miss Bodnar's and Mr. Noyes' comments in this letter. Mr. Noyes had the following in the way of recommendations.

"Previous sound level measurements taken around the larger braiders on the first floor indicate that a good reduction in noise levels can be expected when metal hard pieces and horn gears are replaced with plastic components. Possibly, these plastic pieces could be substituted on other braiders, although there is some question whether this would be possible on the large cable braiders because of the required size of the pieces and the forces exerted on them.

It is understood that attempts have been made to reduce noise levels by placing partial enclosures around some of the braiders. It appears, however, that any success achieved was only minimal. In any enclosure, it is important that the number of openings be kept to a minimum, and these necessary openings should be as small as possible. If operating conditions permit it, it might be possible to completely enclose each braider and provide windows for visibility and a door or doors for quick access.

Conversely, it might be possible to provide a separate room or enclosure for one or more of the machine operators, if their duties permit. This room could have glass windows or panels to permit the operators to observe the machines and note malfunctions. When leaving the isolated room to service the machines, the operators could don personal ear protective devices. It would probably be necessary, however, to consider providing ventilation for this room.

If engineering revisions or enclosures for either the machines or operators are not possible or practical, those employees exposed to noise levels in excess of the presently accepted standard should continue to wear personal ear protective devices."

Of course, to complete the program concerning noise or any other occupational disease hazards, a good medical program must be implemented. Miss Bodnar had the following comments to make as a result of our discussion.

The medical survey asbestos exposure and those possibly forthcoming for noise standards-was discussed. In view of the cost, and down time involved, it is suggested that plant nursing services be resumed, to administer and co-ordinate the spirometry for asbestos and audiometry for hearing acuity. The plant physician and/or specialists should evaluate any positive or questionable findings that may effect safe job placements.

While outside referral for spirometry, chest x-rays, and audiometry may appear to be the simpler accomodation, a plant oriented and conducted medical program (chest x-rays excepted) will provide more efficient and effective medical control programs.

Regardless of your choice/decision, the following medical surveillance program should be instituted for employees in or near the potential exposure asbestos areas.

1. Preplacement, annual, and termination chest x-rays (14 by 17 plate) and spirometry should be scheduled for all employees working in or near the potential asbestos exposure areas.

2. Avoid placing employees with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema in potential asbestos exposure areas. Individuals with respiratory deficiency should not be assigned respirators as they may further impair breathing capacity and function.

For outside referrals, you may wish to contact either Dr. Bauhuys at the Yale University School of Medicine, at telephone number 432-4400, or Dr. Arnold Rilance at 111 Park Street, telephone number 562-2805, for discussion on setting up the scope, mechanics, and cost of a chest x-ray and spirometry program. This should be the established program following our mobile van pilot study.

For the noise exposure in you armor and asbestos braiding departments, and the small asbestos braiding department, the following hearing conservation program is suggested:

1. Pre-placement auidometerics should be conducted as part of the physical examination procedure for all new employees going into the 90 dBA or higher work areas.

2. Periodic audiometric testing should be scheduled annually for all of the above personnel, and consideration be given to include all employees currently exposed to 90 dBA or higher

noise levels.

3. Any indication of hearing loss should be medically evaluated to assist with the determination for safe job placements.

4. The Yale University Speech & Hearing Clinic, Dr. Robert Nagle at telephone number 432-7700 or the New Haven Hearind & Speech Center at 100 York Street, telephone number 865-2341 may be contacted.

As discussed, please be sure that the audiometer, test environment, technician, and records meet the critera for calibration, sound proofness, qualifications, intensity range reading as established for standards of validity. A copy of our LP908-Medical control for occupational loss of hearing is enclosed.

I believe all present at our meeting agreed that this program still needs much work before an acceptable solution has been fully completed. However, I believe we have more information with which to work. Hopefully, one of these engineered solutions will solve the problem. In the meantime, strict enforcement of the wearing of ear protection is a must.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Grillo
Loss Prevention Representative

KAG:sc
cc: D. Hillard, Manager-Insurance
Robert Brown, Safety Director
N. Reuter, Personnel Manager