

WILLIAM WEINGARTEN, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C.
107 NELSON AVENUE
GREAT KILLS
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.
—
PHONE YUKON 4-4433

August 19, 1963

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
Kettering Laboratory,
College of Medicine
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

I wish to thank you for your comprehensive letter of August 9, 1963 addressed to Mr. J. P. Warner of the Nassau Smelting & Refining Co. Inc.

I am certified by the Board of Internal Medicine and acting as Medical Director of this company on a part time basis. I am familiar with the problems of this plant and with the importance of a routine check-up of the personnel exposed to lead. I welcome your offer to help us in checking the blood and urine lead levels on our workers since we have been relying primarily on stipple cell counts and urinary prophyrin level changes prior to ordering lead blood levels. It is obvious that your type of spot checking may give us more adequate supervision of our operations.

The plant works on a 3 shift basis and we shall endeavor to send you blood samples of lead contacts whenever they return to the day shift. We have a certain number of permanent employees who are working in our lead department and they are as follows:

Moving Grate Sweater	4 Operators
Mixing Kettles and Casting Kettles	5 Operators
Stripper Department	24 Operators
Splice Cutting Machine	3 Operators
Large Kettles	3 Operators
Cable Sorting Department	12 Sorters

We also have a number of employees engaged on a temporary basis for periods of 2 weeks to a month at a time and they are as follows:

Moving Grate Sweater	4 Helpers
Stripper Department	24 Helpers
Splice Cutting Machine	3 Helpers
Large Kettles	2 Helpers

We would like to choose approximately 15 of the above employees for your study

Dr. R. Kehoe
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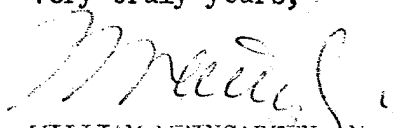
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and I wonder if you could give us your opinion which ones of these would be best suited for it.

I would appreciate it very much if you send me the material for collecting the blood and urine samples to my office at Nassau Smelting & Refining Co., Inc., 1 Nassau Place, Staten Island 7, N. Y.

Thank you for your kind attention, I remain

Very truly yours,


WILLIAM WEINGARTEN, M. D.

WW:eh

cc: R. H. McCrea

Enclosure: We are enclosing a description of the above operations which probably will be helpful to you in evaluating the lead exposure of the employees mentioned above.

RE 0018747

Moving Grate Sweater

A refractory lined enclosure 48' long x 40' wide through which passes a conveyor belt loaded with lead encased cable. The lead is melted off the cable and collected in 2000# molds outside the furnace. The remaining copper wire is collected at the end of the enclosure. The lead covered cable is hand loaded onto a conveyor belt. This operation consumes approximately 1,000,000 lbs of lead covered cable per month.

Mixing Kettle

A bowl shaped container that holds approximately 10,000# of metal. Some refining and alloying done. They are hooded and exhausted by natural draft to a 200 foot stack. Material is hand loaded, lead dross which forms on the surface is removed manually by a bowl shaped scoop and dumped into small (approximately 30" x 18" x 8" deep) open metal containers for disposal. Approximately 340,000 lbs. of material is processed per month.

Casting Kettle

Capacity 2,000#, kettle hooded and exhausted by natural draft to a 200 ft. stack. No refining done here. Material is hand loaded, lead dross which forms on the surface is removed manually by a bowl shaped scoop and dumped into small (approximately 30" x 18" x 8" deep) open metal containers for disposal. Approximately 45,000 lbs. of material is processed per month.

Large Kettles

Same as mixing kettle except 50,000# capacity. Material is both hand loaded and truck loaded and consists of lead cable, lead blocks and various other lead products. Removal of dross from the surface of the cable is manual and done by use of a bowl shaped scoop. The dross is dumped in bins for disposal. Approximately 2,700,000 lbs. of material is processed per month.

Stripper

Lead sheath is cut off telephone cable. The building is 120 x 20 x 14 ft. at the eaves and completely open for 120 ft. on the southern face. The lead covered cable is hand fed into the stripping machine and undergoes a slicing operation between two revolving circular blades. The wire is forced out and the lead casing is returned to the operator by revolving wheels using a crushing process. Approximately 1,800,000 lbs. of material is processed per month.

Cable Sorting

A visual inspection for splices in lead covered cable of small size. Splices are chopped off and sent to splice cutting machine. The above operation is done in the open. All cable is manually handled and sorted. Different sizes and metal contents are segregated and reloaded. The chopping operation is done by the use of a hatchet wielded by the worker. Approximately 2,500,000 lbs of material is processed per month.

Splice Cutting

The ends of splices are cut with a rotating knife. This is done in an area which is a lean-to with 3 open sides. The operator physically introduces each splice into a rotating knife, cutting the ends one at a time. Material is then re-stacked for further processing. 75,000 lbs. of material is processed each month.

KE 0018749