FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: August 28, 1969

DOC#: WRG161

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1969 Minutes of meeting WR Grace and US Public Health Service

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

34311



HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING

BETWEEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

AND

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIVISION

W. R. GRACE & CO.

August 28, 1969

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U.S. Public Health Service

Division of Epidemiology & Special Services

L. J. Crally, PhD, Director
W. S. Lainhart, M. D., Deputy Director
H. E. Ayer, Assistant Director
J. R. Lynch, Chief Laboratory & Engineering
R. N. Ligo, M. D., Chief, Field Studies Branch

Construction Products Division

W. R. Grace & Co.

H. A. Brown
R. E. Schneider
O. F. Stewart
E. D. Lovick
Peter Kostic

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DR. CRALLEY

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Said that a Deputy Attorney General, based in the Northwest, has a camp or lodge near the Libby Dam under construction, and he let it be known to Cralley that there is a dust problem at Libby, apparently created by Zonolite, affecting workers and community. Cralley told him he was aware of the problem and that his division was working closely with Zonolite on the problem.

Said that nothing is known about the effects on the health of persons exposed to tremolite-asbestos dust, and that his division would like to make a mortality study of former employees (such study is described in Lynch's letter of July 10, 1968, copy attached). In order that such study is meaningful, however, a substantial number of employees would have to be involved and certain information (records) would have to be available.

He was not sure what prompted Dr. Selikoff to express interest in the problem. He speculated that the information may have reached him through a doctor or doctors from the Northwest, familiar with the problem. He said that his division undertakes special studies and projects at the request of state health departments. In our case, they will be working through the Health Department of the State of Montana.

Asked if our South Carolina ore contained tremolite asbestos. Requested raw ore and expanded ore samples from Libby, South Carolina and South Africa.

He advised that for the time being, we should keep our discussions and deliverations confidential so as not to create undue apprehension. As I remember, he said there was no objection in letting those who express inquiry know that "we are working with the U. S. Public Health Service on the problem".

Said his group will study the available records and discuss the problem further, then let us know whether a mortality study would be feasible.

DR. LAINHART

Said there is a greater incidence of lung cancer among asbestos workers who smoke cigarettes than among non-smokers. The point he made was that we must be concerned with lung cancer as well as pneumoconiosis (dust disease of the lungs).

Said his division would consider doing a medical study of present employees at Libby. Briefly, this would involve certain tests, chest x-rays and examinations of those presently employed; comparison of findings with whatever past records showed, and periodic repeated tests and x-rays. This would all be done by them,with their equipment and at their expense, at Libby.

H. E. AYER

Said that the impinger method of air sampling, insofar as evaluation of asbestos fibers is concerned, has no value.

Offered to instruct our personnel, at their laboratories, in the proper technique of microscopic fiber counting.

Said they would be willing to double check sample fiber counts from time to time.

Except when personal samplers (pumps) are dropped or otherwise roughly handled, he said calibrating every six months is sufficient.

J. R. LYNCH

Said that his sampling of the air at the mine and mill at Libby, and subsequent laboratory analysis of the samples, showed that asbestos fiber counts were far in excess of the recommended threshold limits.

Said that the mechanical ventilating equipment in the Libby dry mill, as he observed it, had many leaks and lacked the velocity to withdraw all the dust. The entire system, as he termed it, needed a good tightening up.

Said that cyclone collectors could not be expected to properly do the job. He recommended bag type collectors.

Said that he had observed employees, exposed to dust in the dry mill, not wearing respirators.

When questioned about his statement that he observed "respirators not of an approved type" being worn at Libby, Lynch said he couldn't recall the exact circumstances.

Said he would like to have a look at whatever plans we have for ventilation improvements at Libby and that he would lend assistance in this regard.

Said that a program of dust controls, monitoring of work-place air and installation and maintenance of suitable equipment, should be undertaken whether or not the USPHS conducts their studies.

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DR. LIGO

Felt it would be an ideal setup to use Kearney employees as a control group, since they are exposed to Vermiculite but not to tremolite asbestos.

Peter Kostic 11/6/80

PETER KOSTIC

PK:jrs