



Shell Oil Company
Interoffice Memorandum

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SI-3413

APRIL 23, 1991

FROM: S. R. COWLES, M.D.

TO: C. A. LAMBOLEY
F. K. BLACKARD
L. L. MC DOWELL
C. F. PHILLIPS
L. C. WADDELL, M.D.
C. E. ROSS, D.O.
W. L. HEITZ

SUBJECT: EXTENDED MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE FOR ASBESTOS

The attached information is forwarded to you for preview for our meeting on Friday, May 24, 1-2 p.m. in Conference Room 1023 OSP.

S. R. Cowles, M.D.

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Attachments

cc w/attachments - W. A. Carpenter, Jr.
R. R. Kienle
J. M. Regnier
R. D. Gerard
E. W. Montgomery



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APRIL 23, 1991

FROM: S. R. COWLES, M.D., DR.P.H., MEDICAL DIRECTOR
HEALTH SURVEILLANCE/EPIDEMIOLOGY

TO: C. E. ROSS, D.O., CORPORATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTENDED MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR
ASBESTOS SMSP PARTICIPANTS WITH POSITIVE FINDINGS AT RETIREMENT

Background

In 1981, the Shell Data Evaluation and Prioritization Team (D.E.P.T.) task force reviewed substances covered by Shell's Special Medical Surveillance Programs (SMSP) to determine whether or not the employees included in any of the programs should be eligible for medical surveillance after retirement (Enclosure I). As a result of that review, eight substances were considered to be potential candidates for such a program but only two were recommended by D.E.P.T. for initial implementation. The two substances chosen by D.E.P.T. were vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and epichlorohydrin (ECH). Both were chosen because of their potential carcinogenicity and because the amount of human data regarding these substances was considered incomplete. VCM was later dropped from consideration when it was learned that most cases of angiosarcoma of the liver presented before the age of 65 and that no effective intervention was possible. A modified (5-year, one-time examination 5 years post-retirement) program was developed and implemented for ECH. Only a very small number of individuals were eligible for this program (less than 15 total per year) and no adverse health effects linked to ECH were uncovered by this program. At the end of five years that program ceased.

Since 1981, there has been an explosion of asbestos related litigation (Enclosure II), and the development of a variety of individual location specific programs to follow up Shell retirees with evidence of asbestos-related conditions at the time of retirement. Some locations, such as Martinez, offer pulmonary specialist consultation and annual follow-up examinations to such individuals (Enclosure III). Deer Park has also followed a small group of retirees with suspected asbestos-related conditions (Enclosure IV). In 1990, Westhollow Research Center asked to institute such a program (Enclosure V). Wood River Manufacturing Complex is facing a class action asbestos claim by former employees. Shell Corporate Medical Department has established an asbestosis registry for those asbestos SMSP participants found to have evidence for an asbestos-related condition. All of these activities suggested the need to revisit the issue of a standardized extended medical surveillance program for asbestos. To this end, the following proposal has been developed.

Proposal

Dr. Marshall Anderson, an occupational medicine resident with the University of Texas School of Public Health, has prepared Enclosure VI which details the rationale for an extended medical surveillance program for asbestos according to the original 1981 D.E.P.T. criteria. Initially, Corporate Medical recommends confining such a program to those identified as having an asbestos-related condition at the time of retirement or to those former asbestos SMSP participants who are discovered to have such a condition after retirement and seek Shell follow-up. Content of the follow-up examination would be the same as for the existing Shell asbestos SMSP (Enclosure VII), annual frequency would also be the same. Modification of the existing examination protocol and preseparation counselling sheet (Enclosure VIII) for asbestos would be needed to reflect follow-up of affected retirees.

Implementation date would be dependent upon the timing of necessary approvals within Shell. Retirees known to be eligible for this program would need to be notified in addition to current active eligible employees at the time of retirement.

Initiation of Approval Process

First step is to seek preliminary review and approval from Legal; ER/IR; Products, Manufacturing Technical; and Health and Safety. A meeting is planned for May 24 to describe the proposed program and discuss how it could best be implemented if accepted.

S. R. Cowles, M.D.

S. R. Cowles, M.D.

Enclosures (8)

cc - L. C. Waddell, M.D.