

3/16/83

RCW NOTESMarch 15, 1983 Meeting - Montreal

Dr. J. C. McDonald	Dr. Berke
Dr. A. D. McDonald	Dr. Duecker
Dr. Patrick Sebastian	H. Eschenbach
	J. Wolter
	R. Walsh

- 1) Lung Cancers - thinks Munson's assessment of a rate of 3.3 times the expected rate is high; thinks the rate is more like 2 times (seemed to indicate 9% to be the norm). I believe 9% is the U. S. national average as % of all deaths.  
  
Stated that some of the sixteen Libby cases are unlikely related to work.
- 2) Obviously have a health problem.
  - a. We are handling fine chopped tremolite.
  - b. Tremolite can cause Mesothelioma; the two cases we have probably are due to workplace exposure.
  - c. Probably have more lung cancers than normal.
- 3) On the whole, our story and health data doesn't seem unusual or unexpected.
- 4) Asbestosis is not that progressive.
  - . Really is a benign disease.
  - . Not a real problem in terms of ability to work after contracting it.
- 5) Early diagnosis of asbestosis 7 - 12 years in some cases -- not that unusual but it depends on what is really diagnosed (i.e. what one is calling asbestosis).
- 6) X-ray readers -- biased answers by telling them what it is your looking for.



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- 7) Exposure levels at Libby similar to chrysotile mining in Quebec  
except
- . Libby has more lung cancer
  - . More Mesothelioma (3 cases out of 2200 cases  
in their study).
- 8) Fiber Years - "Nothing wrong as long as you don't believe it".  
The concept of concentration x time is bad --- but no one  
has come up with something else.
- 9) Mesothelioma - the New York talc study by Kleinfeldt showed 2  
cases out of 90 deaths.
- 10) Our present conditions -- i.e. .2 average and .8 - .9 highest TWA --  
Asbestosis - no problem (won't be clinically significant)  
Lung Cancer - doubt it would exceed the norm  
Mesothelioma - less certain
- 11) Tremolite re OSHA Standards of 2.0 fibers -- his opinion is that  
it is too high; perhaps .2 is a better level.
- 12) New Information (?)  
Our experience is important and deserves being professionally  
worked
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \*
- 13) NEED TO REPORT -- No, he didn't think that our data describes a  
dangerous substance not previously identified.
- 14) Willing and interested in doing the work.  
Timetable -- four months too short; six months to "tidy up"  
what has been done; possibly a phase two to follow.  
NIOSH -- will not place himself in an antagonistic role; would  
want to mention to the agency head (a personal friend) that we  
talked to him and see if NIOSH objects to his taking on the  
assignment.

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PUBLISH - the University would not permit him to enter a contract with restrictions on publishing in a technical journal;

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