INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE WALK-THROUGH REPORT

PLANT NAME: Pfizer Inc., Victorville Plant

LOCATION: Victorville, California

PURPOSE: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in cooperation with the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) has underway a preliminary study of the talc mining and milling industry. As part of this study NIOSH is conducting walk-through surveys to compile necessary data in an effort to characterize talc composition in the U.S.

NIOSH PERSONNEL: Howard R. Ludwig, Thomas E. Sandusky

PLANT HISTORY AND PROCESS:

Pfizer Inc. acquired the Victorville Plant from Kennedy Minerals in 1961. This mill has been in operation since the 1920's and currently custom grinds talcs and clays from 6 or 7 different underground and open pit mines, for use in ceramics, paints, plastics, and paper.

The Victorville Plant currently has 40 employees working during one of the three 8 hour shifts, seven days per week. Stockpiled talc after being reduced in size in the primary crusher is fed into one of two Raymond Roller Mills (passing 200 to 325 mesh) where it may be bagged or shipped in bulk by train or truck. If a finer product is desired the feed is also passed through a pebble mill (10 μ to 38 μ) before being bagged. Most of the products are blends of talc from the various supplier mines.

HEALTH HAZARDS: Potentially excessive dust and noise exposure.

PERSONNEL RECORDS:

Include Social Security numbers, work histories, and lost time accident data back to at least 1961 when mill was acquired.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An audiometric hearing program should be instituted to ascertain the effectiveness of current hearing protection.

2. More effort should be put into cleaning up talc spills, with more use being made of vacuum system available, which is preferred instead of sweeping or shoveling.

3. Dust levels in the air should be reduced by increasing amount of ventilation around mills, belts, and bagging machines as well as improving maintenance on ducts and conveyors.

Work Sheet

for

Preliminary Industrial Hygiene
Survey of

Plant Name: Pfizer Inc., Minerals, Pigments and Metals Division

City, State: Victorville, Californai

Survey Date: July 21, 1976

Survey Conducted By: Howard R. Ludwig
Thomas E. Sandusky

Industrial Hygiene Section
Industry-Wide Studies Branch
Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Cincinnati, Ohio

I. General:

1. Establishment Name Pfizer Inc., Minerals, Pigments and Metals Division

Address 17092 "D" Street City Victorville

State California Zip Code 92392 Tel. No (714) 245-34

2. Persons Interviewed Ray Parikh, Q.A. Manager

Title

Others:

3. A) Union Representative: Jim Metcalf

Title Telephone Number

B) Name of Union(s) United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers

5. NIOSH Staff Present H.R. Ludwig, T.E. Sandusky

II. Plant Description:

1. Is plant a subsidiary or independently owned? Subsidiary

Name of parent company Pfizer Inc.

Legal Owner

2. Date plant built 1920's Pfizer acquired from Kennedy Minerals in 1961

Date of plant additions

3. Acreage of plant site

4. Number of major buildings 3 Total Square Feet

5. A) How many people are on your payroll at the present time? 40

B) Of this number, how many are normally in the

Production Area? 15

Administrative Area? 13

Other Areas? 12

6. Number of Shifts three shifts - 7 days per week

7. Number of employees/shifts? 26-7-7

III. Description of Process:

1. What are your major products or services? (list)

Custom grinding of talcs and clays used in ceramics, paints, plastics and paper.

2. Plant Processes

A) Product

Raw materials and possible contaminants

Mines serving mill:

Eclipse - underground

Acme - open pit

Bonnie - open pit
Mongolian - open pit
White Eagle - open pit
Acme - open pit

Production Processes Stockpiled talc is crushed (primary crusher) and fed into one of the two Raymond Roller Mills (passing 200 to 325 mesh) where it is bagged or further processed (about 1/3) through a pebble mill (10μ to 38μ) before being bagged.

B) Products

[redacted]

Talcron CP 44-31 (Eclipse, Bonnie, Mongolian) Paint

Talcron Pebble Mill CP (Eclipse, Bonnie, Mongolian) Paint

Cercron CF-96-38 (Acme, Eclipse, Mongolian) Ceramics

Cercron CF-96-36 (White Eagle, Apex, Mongolian) Ceramics

Production Processes_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

IV. Description of Medical, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Programs:

1. A) Does your company employ an industrial hygienist?

Yes, at this location_____

Yes, at corporate headquarters_____

Yes, on a consulting basis_____

Yes, insurance carrier_____

Yes, specify_____

No X

B) Name_____ Telephone Number_____

Address_____

C) What types of measurements are routinely taken? Explain.

Personnel Dept. (John Klym) is gearing up to take periodic air sample

Their insurance company has reviewed the proposed procedures.

MESA conducts periodic air sampling and noise measurements.

D) Were industrial hygiene measurements obtained: Yes_____ No X

2. Do you have an agreement with a physician to give your employees emergency or other medical car?

Yes, at this location--full-time_____

Yes, at this location--part-time_____

Yes, on call X

No

Name Dr. Orr Telephone Number

Address Victorville, California
also an Emergency Clinic in town.

3. Do you have a licensed nurse in your facility at a regular time?

Yes, Full-time Yes, Part-time No X

4. Do you have an employee at this facility on each shift with formal first aid training, other than doctors or nurses, who has been designated to provide emergency treatment?

Yes X No

5. When you hire a new employee, do you require him to take a medical examination?

Yes, all employees X

Yes, some employees

No

6. Do you provide any periodic physical examinations for your employees?

Yes X (only for truck drivers) No How Often

7. Do you provide special job related medical tests for your employees, such as:

Chest X-Ray	Yes	No X
Hearing Tests	Yes	No X
Visual Tests	Yes	No X
Lung Function Tests	Yes	No X
Blood Tests	Yes	No X
Urine Tests	Yes	No X
Other	Yes	No X

Specify:

8. A) Does your company have a formal safety program? Yes X No

B) Safety and Health Supervisor John Klym

C) How many people are involved in this program? 1

D) How many lost-time accidents did you have last year?

Frequency _____ Severity Falls, trips, cuts.

9. Has there been any medical abnormalities among workers which can be contributed to an occupational exposure? No

Explain _____

10. What protective equipment is required:

Equipment Provided by Employer

Clothing	Yes ____	No X
Glasses	Yes X	No ____
Shoes	Yes ____	No X
Respirators	Yes X	No ____

Type 3M, MSA

Where Used "If needed"

Other Hard hats, hearing protection

11. A) Are there facilities for taking showers?

Yes X No ____

B) Are there facilities for changing clothes?

Yes X No ____

C) Obtained descriptive literature on products?

Yes ____ No X

V. Narrative:

1. Description of Medical, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Program:

In process of setting up an I H and Safety Program. Pre-employment physicals are required.

2. Potential Health Hazards:

Dust, Noise

3. Have product lines changed over the years? (If they have, include any other raw materials used).

No, basically the same.

4. Are waste products reused: (If not, how are they disposed?)

5. Briefly describe any past air sampling data.

6. **Completeness of Personnel Records:**

Social Security Numbers - Yes

Work History - Yes

Lost Time Accident Data - Yes

Records Available Since 1961 at least

7. **Ventilation: (Include type, size, kinds of collectors, H.P. of blowers, history of changes, etc.)**

Ventilation over mills, belts & bagging machines connected to bag houses.

8. **Housekeeping:**

Mainly by broom and shovel. A truck equipped with a vacuum is shared with their Lucerne Plant located about 25 miles away. Rather heavy dust accumulations on the floor were observed.

9. **Miscellaneous:**