

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA

PLEASE QUOTE

YOUR FILE

8082-35-5

Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
X1A 2L9

May 26, 1980.

Mr. Dave Whittall,
Mill Superintendent,
Con Operations,
Cominco Ltd.,
P.O. Box 2000,
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Whittall;

Thank you for your recent request for information regarding an Occupational Health Program for workers exposed to lead in industry. As discussed, workers in the Assay Office and in the Refinery at Con Mine are exposed to litharge as a dust and possibly lead fumes. From Occupational Health information we do know that inhalation and ingestion of lead and lead compounds can be harmful to health.

The Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Government of the N.W.T. have examined the regulations on lead exposure from other provinces. We propose using the B.C. regulations with regards to this matter as their regulations are practical, up to date and the present model for our proposed N.W.T. Occupational Health and Safety regulations. We have consulted with Dr. B. Dimock of Trail, B.C. who has outlined the reporting of the results.

Our recommendations for monitoring at Con are as follows:

1. Upon commencement of employment (Assay Office and Refinery) a Medical Investigation specific for lead exposure workers will be completed. A blood test and urine sample shall be taken for lead analysis.
2. Copies are enclosed of Schedule I (Lead in Urine) and Schedule II (Lead in Blood) which will be used for any additional analysis. The Medical Doctor will inform the workers of their results, and their significance. With the consent of the worker the employer will be given a general interpretation of the results but not the specific values of the analysis.

- 2 -

3. The monitoring of blood and urine will occur annually. The medical examination will be done initially and only repeated if there is a problem.

To initiate this program we propose:

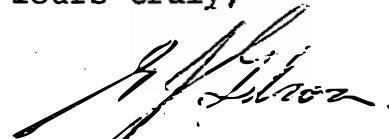
1. The present employees (Assay Office and Refinery) have an initial blood sample and random urine sample taken at the Clinical Laboratory in the Medical Arts Building in Yellowknife.
2. The Medical Advisor for Occupational Health, Dr. Gibson, will perform the Medical Investigation. Dr. Gibson and the Head of the Occupational Health Section, Safety Division, will explain to the employee the significance of the testing and the procedure for reporting results. The doctor will discuss with the workers lead exposure and will answer any questions the worker may have.

To set up a working schedule we request you provide the list of workers involved and their day of choice the week of June 23-26. We would suggest 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Clinic.

The above program will function as an Occupational Health monitoring program. We encourage and support the continued environmental monitoring of the Assay Office and/or Refinery as the renovation to the ventilation occurs.

Do not hesitate to contact myself or Occupational Health if you have any questions or comments.

Yours truly,



Dr. G. Gibson,
Medical Advisor,
Occupational Health Section,
Safety Division,
Dept. of Justice and
Public Services.
Gov't of the N.W.T.

cc: Mr. Mel Brown
Laurie Nowakowski

Enclosure

GG/f