Johnson & Johnson
BABY PRODUCTS COMPANY

RARITAN, N.J. 08869

April 25, 1977

SUBJECT: Johnson & Johnson Greece
Gamma Radiation of Talc
Project No. 2215.07

TO: Mr. H. L. Eilbacher

The Baby Products Company in conjunction with DOC Sterilization Research have investigated the feasibility of decontaminating JOHNSON'S Baby Powder on an as needed basis with Gamma Radiation. After discussing this question with Dr. Goodman and Messrs. Orlando and Gibson, they indicated that studies showed treatment with between 0.75 and 1.00 megarad of radiation to be biologically effective in eliminating low levels of contamination from the final Baby Powder package, but organoleptic studies were able to detect an off odor due to the process. Further efforts in this approach were discontinued as a result.

An Ethylene Oxide cycle is used to decontaminate "finished" goods as the situation requires.

Our studies would indicate that gamma radiation treatment of the raw talc would not result in an off odor problem with the perfume not present, and that gamma radiation of the Talc was feasible.

It has been reported that J&J Canada has utilized decontamination by gamma radiation of JOHNSON'S Baby Powder containing low levels of microbial contamination.

Alan Marks
Alan Marks

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CC: Dr. J. R. Marshall
Dr. M. H. Goodman
Mr. T. L. Kelly
Mr. L. Orlando
File #2215.07

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