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MAR 24 1977

GEORGE LEE

cc: JRM
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Johnson & Johnson
BABY PRODUCTS COMPANY

RARITAN, N.J. 08869

March 24, 1977

TO: G. Lee

SUBJECT: TALC/ASBESTOS OSHA/NBS ACTIVITIES - FILE 0503.01

There has been a delay in the release of the report which National Bureau of Standards prepared for OSHA on the asbestos content of some 88 talcs which presumably represent talcs available on the U.S. markets.

My best information is that the report did not fit the views of the top officials of those two government divisions and is in a final stage of being rewritten with release now expected in about another week.

Unofficially, I am advised the findings fall into three categories: (1) Talcs which show freedom from asbestos (2) talcs which show a borderline situation as probably containing asbestos and (3) some talcs which show a definite heavy content of asbestos.

Thus it appears that new adverse publicity on talc will appear if the above information is taken out of context by Consumer Advocates and the press.

It is to be recalled that this work was done using a NIOSH method which is based more on aspect ratio than mineral identity. Although NBS has tried to explain the limitations of that method, that explanation is academic as far as near term adverse talc publicity is concerned.

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