

T. E. Egan

February 13, 1969

FEB 17 1969

R. W. Sterrett

J. K. Chapin - Travelers Rest
C. R. Babb
L. A. Barron

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
WRG-198

I'm attaching a letter from Les Barron having to do with glass fiber as a reinforcement in Mono-Kote to replace asbestos. The people at Travelers Rest may have already done some work on this but if not, it might be worth exploring.

Last week while in California I saw Glenn Sucetti, an old timer in the vermiculite business, who has come up with many significant ideas such as vinsol resin in concrete, our masonry fill coating, as well as others. I told him that the use of asbestos in our material was causing some concern and I wondered if biotite flakes might be a possible substitution for asbestos. Sucetti stated that he thought this was a good possibility and I would recommend we do a little work on this. For your information, we have unlimited quantities of biotite at both Libby and South Carolina. Perhaps Chapin could talk with Lewis Hash who I am confident could prepare some material for testing purposes.

R. W. Sterrett

RWS:dlc

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February 7, 1969

Mr. R. W. Sterrett
Zonolite Div. - W. R. Grace & Co.
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

Dear Bob:

We are indebted to Bill Culver's watchful eyes for bringing our attention to an article that appeared in the February issue of WALLS AND CEILINGS (formerly PLASTERING INDUSTRIES). For your convenience, Bob, I have photocopied this article and attached it for your review. It gets into the area of using glass fiber as a reinforcement in plaster and concrete, and Bill suggests the possibility of substituting glass fiber for asbestos in vermiculite Type-MK.

Additionally, Bob, I am wondering if the advent of regulated-set cements would not help in this particular direction. Possibly, regulated-set cement as a binder in some type of vermiculite fireproofing would be better than gypsum. Of course, after you read the article, you will note there can be an alkali reaction between portland cement and glass fibers but the article suggests that appropriate coatings could probably be found for the glass fibers.

With the comments raised in some corners of the country about asbestos, I wonder if this does not have some merit.

This is for your information, Bob.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Barron
Executive Secretary

LAB:ms

cc: Mr. W.V. Culver
Mr. C.H. Wendel
Mr. D.J. Boone

