PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WRG-555

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIVISION

W. R. GRACE & CO., 62 WHITTEMORE AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02140 617-876-1400

July 29, 1970

Robert O. Gorson
Professor of Medical Physics
Stein Center
Thomas Jefferson University
920 Chancellor Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Professor Gorson:

Thank you for including us on your agenda of last week's meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental and Occupational Hazards of Asbestos Fibers.

As we indicated in our presentation, the Construction Products Division of W. R. Grace & Co. is very concerned about product safety in general, and very particularly about the hazard of asbestos in our Mono-Kote fireproofing.

Although the data we presented indicates that the air pollution with asbestos fibers during mixing, application, and normal life of Mono-Kote is within the current 5 fiber criteria, we are not satisfied. As we indicated in the meeting, we are currently reformulating to eliminate asbestos in a #1 priority program. We will appraise you of all developments, and particularly with regard to Underwriters' Laboratories testing.

In response to your request, I am enclosing copies of the view graphs we presented. I am also enclosing the Tabershaw Cooper Associates report of July 13th, and an internal report by our Mr. Berman dated July 6th. These reports represent unpublished material, and we would appreciate it if you would not publish our data without contacting us first.

We are pondering the question of eventual demolition of buildings and are attempting to devise a meaningful simulation to give comparative data on cementitious wet slurry sprayed type of fireproofing versus sprayed fiber fireproofing. Current practices of wetting down buildings during demolition help. Higher density fireproofing with cementitious binding would, in my estimation, release less asbestos during demolition.

Robert O. Gorson July 29, 1970

The simple fact of lower asbestos content in our cementitious fireproofing further supports the argument that this cementitious type is less of a hazard during demolition than the sprayed fiber type.

We are contacting Dr. Cooper of Tabershaw Cooper Associates, to urge his attendance at the next meeting of your committee as you requested.

Please advise us if we may be of further service.

Sincerely yours,

David G. Powell

DGP:mlr

Enclosures