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GRACE

Construction Products Division

W.R. Grace & Co.
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02140

(617) 876-1400

March 20, 1987

Mr. Dennis R. Strong
Superintendent
General Building Division
State Farm Insurance Companies
Corporate Headquarters
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, IL 61710-0001

Dear Mr. Strong:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 9, 1986 and your follow-up letter of March 6, 1987. Our delay in responding has been occasioned by the time it took to conduct a bulk sample analysis of the material you provided to us.

The bulk sample has now been completed, and our analysis indicates that it contains 10 to 15% chrysotile asbestos, approximately 62% gypsum, and approximately 23% vermiculite.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the subject matter of your letters. In particular, we would like to have an opportunity to inspect the fireproofing material in your building and to arrange for air sampling at our expense.

In your letter, you express some concern about the health and safety of your employees. All the tests which have been conducted over the years on the asbestos-containing fireproofing product manufactured by W. R. Grace & Co. have shown that it is safe and presents no hazard to occupants of buildings where it has been installed. We will be glad to review with you all of Grace's information on that subject matter. In general, our advice is that it is unnecessary and, indeed, inadvisable to remove cementitious fireproofing materials containing a small amount of chrysotile asbestos, such as the product manufactured by Grace.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience so that we can arrange a time for a visit.

Sincerely,

John S. Hamilton, Jr.
Manager, Technical Services

JSH/acd

cc: R. A. Schivinski - CPD/Chicago

bcc: R. J. Bettacchi
O. M. Favorito
J. W. Hughes
S. P. Reppert/GP&H
J. I. Stone - CPD/Chicago