

INT' R. OFFICE COMMUN CATION

Scotts

DEC 05 1980

*cc: J. Kennedy
J. Kishinew*

To: John Cleveland
cc: Jack Pozenel, Dick Gruenbaum

From: S. V. Chamberlain

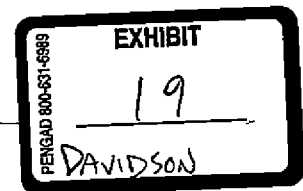
Subject: Brazil Vermiculite

Date: December 5, 1980

Received a phone call from Bill Strong of Stronglite Company, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This is the other party I told you about that was contacted by the Brazilian source of vermiculite. He received the results from McCrone Labs on the sample of vermiculite he submitted for asbestos check. It is tremolite-actinolite of the massive variety which is what we find in Virginia Vermiculite. In the meantime, he has sent a copy of the report which is attached.

I submitted through Al Davidson a sample of Brazilian ore we brought back from Dr. Maloff to McCrone. To date the results have not been received. I have not heard from Dr. Maloff as to his status.

Sarge





walter c. mcrone associates, inc.

CONSULTING • ULTRAMICROANALYSIS • MICROSCOPY • SMALL PARTICLE PROBLEMS • SOLID-STATE CHEMISTRY

7 November 1980

Mr. William A. Strong
Strong-Lite Products Corporation
P.O. Box 8068
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611

Dear Mr. Strong:

We have completed our analysis for asbestos minerals in the two samples of vermiculite submitted with your letter of 30 October.

The samples were received in sealed plastic bags and identified as expanded and unexpanded vermiculite. Five grams of the expanded vermiculite and 20 grams of the unexpanded vermiculite were dried in an oven at 120°C for two hours and ground to 170 mesh using a mortar and pestle. Polarized light microscopy with dispersion staining was used to examine the ground material for asbestos minerals.

Tremolite-actinolite was detected in both the expanded and unexpanded vermiculite. The unexpanded vermiculite contains 0.1-0.5% by weight tremolite-actinolite while the expanded material contains <0.1-0.1% of this mineral. In both of the samples the tremolite-actinolite appears to be of the massive variety, however, the mineral is easily broken in fragments with high aspect ratios. Under current government regulations these fragments are considered to be asbestiform.

Thank you for consulting McCrone Associates and if you have any further questions concerning this work, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Mark Palenik
Senior Research Microscopist

MP:fe
Ref: 9503