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March 3, 1965

W. L. VanDerbeek, Toledo

Threshold Limits

Each year the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists meet to set maximum allowable concentrations for various dusts, fumes, vapors, noise, etc. A given substance is first put on a tentative concentration list and after some time elapses if there is no objections from industry, the material is given a permanent rating. Last year, fiber glass was given a tentative maximum allowable concentration which would make it appear much more hazardous than silica. We have objected strenuously to this and I have met with representatives of Owens-Corning and Pittsburgh Plate Glass on the subject.

The new chairman of the committee on these maximum allowable concentrations is Dr. Paul Gross, Research Pathologist at the Industrial Hygiene Foundation in Pittsburgh. As you know, he is a good friend of Johns-Manville and has done excellent work for us for many years. Unfortunately, he has no knowledge whatsoever of the fiber glass industry. I would like to have your permission to invite Dr. Gross to visit our Defiance and Waterville Plants on March 25. He already made arrangements to visit the Owens-Corning Plant and Research Center in Toledo. If this permission is granted, Cliff Sheckler will accompany Dr. Gross on his indoctrination tour, March 25. We can make further definite travel arrangements with the plant managers if you concur.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

X

Johns-Manville Corporation

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Environmental Affairs Department

May 7, 1973

Dr. Herbert E. Stokinger
U. S. Department of Health,
Education & Welfare
Public Health Service
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
1014 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Dr. Stokinger:

It is my understanding that you still hold the position of Chairman of the Threshold Limit Value Committee of ACGIH, and this letter is addressed to you in that capacity.

The scientist in charge of our diatomaceous earth and talc research has called to our attention that the definition of "TALC (Fibrous)" as it appears in the Third Edition, 1971, of "Documentation of the Threshold Limit Values for Substances in Workroom Air", is in error.

On page 243 reference is made to "the fibrous variety of talc". The pure talc mineral is never fibrous but is platey or micaceous. Pure talc does occur in nature, but more often with a number of mineral contaminants; such as calcite, dolomite, quartz, serpentine, magnitite, magnesite, chlorite and, in some cases, the asbestiform minerals; tremolite, chrysotile, and anthophyllite.

The pure talc mineral can appear fibrous when examined by light microscopy. However, the fibrous appearing material is actually rolled platelets, or platelets on edge or at an angle.

In our opinion, the documentation for "TALC (Fibrous)" should be rewritten to eliminate any reference to "fibrous talc", and, instead, should refer to the fact that talc ores can contain fibrous contaminants which are asbestiform minerals.

W. B. Reitze and I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you at the AIHA conference in Boston later this month.

Very truly yours,

JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

Edmund M Fenner

Edmund M. Fenner, Director
Technical Relations

EMF/clw