FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Newspaper Article - Asbestos in Talcum? FDA to Test with Cover Letter to Desert Minerals from Charles Chrystal Co.

(Top-talc + Asbestos)

CHARLES B. CHRYSTAL COMPANY, INC.

PLANT
JERSEY CITY, N.J.

Industrial Minerals

53 PARK PLACE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

TELEPHONE
BARCLAY 7-2151-2152
CABLE ADDRESS
NANTAHALA, NEW YORK

August 25, 1971

Desert Minerals, Inc.
1891 South Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, California

ATT: MR. EARL SMITH

AUG 30 1971

Dear Earl:

Enclosed please find copy of article which appeared in a New York paper recently regarding asbestos in talc, which is actually all we know on the subject at the present moment.

We are still awaiting letter from you advising that none of your talcs (or at least none of the talcs which we purchase from you) contain asbestos and trust you can send us such an affidavit.

CRMC-HT-TALC-000125

Yours very truly,

CHARLES B. CHRYSTAL CO., INC.

C.A. CHRYSTAL
PRESIDENT

CAC :IH
Enc.

9-1-71

Earl: I talked this over a little with Charley when I phoned in an order for talc. I told him we were not going to put anything in writing until we know more about what the FDA & the Government might do. As it is a proposed ruling. I research on the problem. We said the matter has been pretty well died down & he is not being pressed for any answers. He said it would be a little "dangerous" since the FDA is on Journalism — Carl

Asbestos In Talcum? FDA to Test

By STEVE LAWRENCE.

Federal Food and Drug Administration officials, pushed by the city Environmental Protection Administration, have begun the first steps toward an inquiry to determine whether common talcum powders contain unhealthy quantities of asbestos fibers.

Despite this, the head of the FDA's Foods Bureau, Dr. Virgil Wodlicka, said: "We already have information on most major talcum brands that indicates they pose no health problems."

EPA Administrator Jerome Kretchmer, in a June 28 letter to Health Education and Welfare Secretary Richardson urged the federal government to make a thorough analysis of asbestos in talcum powder.

Brand Names

Kretchmer's letter was prompted by preliminary studies done for his agency at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine on two brand name powders.

"We were informed that these two talcum powder samples both contain amounts of fibrous minerals," identified as asbestos, the EPA chief wrote.

"If these findings apply to talcum powder generally, most of our infant population is exposed to a major risk of asbestos inhalation throughout at least the first two years of life," Kretchmer's letter added.

Mt. Sinai's asbestos expert, D. Irving Selikoff, has linked breathing asbestos fibers to high rates of cancer among workers exposed to the mineral fiber dust over long periods of time.

The FDA, in response to Kretchmer's letter, met Aug. 2 in Washington with officials from the city, federal government, cosmetic companies, Selikoff and two of his co-workers to discuss laboratory methods for detecting asbestos in talcum powder.

Even if asbestos particles are found in some powder brands, federal officials would have to devise some index of how much is too much.

And this in turn will depend on an assessment of how much of the product is actually inhaled during normal usage.

During the Washington meeting, a spokesman for Johnson and Johnson, a major producer of body powder, reportedly said that babies got no more than a total of six full days' exposure to the material under normal conditions.

EPA Assistant Commissioner Harold Romer told the meeting that this estimate was "grossly erroneous. Romer said "the child is exposed to inhalation of the particulate for many hours a day over a period of two years."

The high cancer rates in asbestos miners were detected in men who had worked with the material full time, in many cases for 10 to 20 years.