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June 1, 1977

Mr. Philip J. Bierbaum
Deputy Director
DSHEFS, NIOSH
Robt. A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Mr. Bierbaum:

I have reviewed the paper, "Respiratory Disease Mortality Associated With Milling of Non-Asbestiform Talc" by Selevan et al and would recommend it for publication in a Scientific Journal.

I have discussed with Ms. Selevan two points which might require further clarification and she had indicated that these will be addressed in the next draft. First, is what amounts to only a small editorial change in the introductory paragraphs which would clarify the background and presentation of the problem. Second, is the definition of the study cohort where mortality rates are determined for certain subgroups defined by characteristics noted either at death or at the end of the study. While an analysis in terms of cohorts defined at the beginning of the experience might not change the pattern seen by the authors, I think it would be inappropriate to use the "after-the-fact" definition. I have discussed this in detail with Ms. Selevan and she has indicated her concurrence.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Lloyd, Sc.D.
Epidemiologist
Safety and Health Dept.