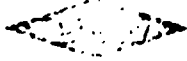


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July 1, 1974

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48667

D. R. Beaman, 574
R. G. Carlson, 2020

cc: D. J. Kilian, Freeport
C. E. Otis, 2040
V. K. Rowe, 1803

TOXICITY OF ASBESTOS

Much work has been done on the toxicity of asbestos via inhalation. Standards have been set by OSHA and EPA on airborne particles.

Very little is known about the toxicity of asbestos via ingestion. The only two bits of data I know of that incriminate asbestos are described in the attached articles and relate to:

1. Increased incidence of cancer of the gastrointestinal tract among asbestos workers.
2. Increased incidence of stomach cancer in Japan where talc containing a small amount of asbestos has been used for polishing rice.

These data are very difficult to interpret due to:

1. Unknown exposure levels and times.
2. The variety of forms of asbestos.
3. Many other factors almost too numerous to mention.

I know of no animal data on the carcinogenicity of asbestos, either completed or in progress. I hope V. K. Rowe will soon be able to more adequately survey the literature, and to find out what is currently being done on the carcinogenic potential of asbestos via ingestion.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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