



INTERMOUNTAIN PRODUCTS, INC.

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July 2, 1986

Mr. Robert H. Locke
Marketing Director
W.R. Grace & Co.
Construction Products Division
62 Whittemore Ave.
Cambridge, Ma. 02140

Dear Bob:

We are in receipt of your's and Steve Venuti's letters dated May 23rd. Now that you have sent the required "cover your behind-we told them everthing" letter, it is now time to give us the facts. As Stan has so eloquently put it, the only asbestos any of us bring into our plants is in the vermiculite concentrate supplied from your Libby mine.

As a starting point, I believe answers to the following questions would help all of us in an assessment of the future of the vermiculite business.

1. Analysis of our own bag house fines indicates 2-5% asbestos. Is this confirmed by Grace's own tests in their plants? If so, what special waste disposal techniques have been adopted by Grace as a result of these elevated asbestos levels?

2. Analysis of "rock" (off the stoner) indicates that asbestos contents may be even higher than in the bag house. Is this the case? If so, how is Grace handling "rock" disposal?

3. What data exists on the Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) in Grace's own plants (recognizing of course that each plant will be different)?

4. What is the impact of all this on finished products? Grace has already gone out of the Attic Fill business due to the tremolite issue. What is next? Terra-Lite? Masonry Fill?

5. Further to the finished product issue, what of Monokote, yours and our "bread & butter"? Tests have shown the finished product to contain less than 10 parts per million of asbestiform mineral fiber by volume. For obvious reasons then, the product can be called virtually-free but not asbestos-free. What is the current situation with regards use of Monokote in areas such as

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California, New Jersey and New York where the spraying of asbestos containing products has been an issue? Are there plans to replace the vermiculite portion in Monokote as the result of problems in this area?

6. We already lose work due the existing health warning labels on vermiculite products. Are new warning labels planned?

7. While rock contents of Libby vermiculite have fallen, ore cars still arrive with the asbestos placard. Is the placard with us forever?

Bob, the time has come for straight answers, not cover your ass memos. All of us await some meaningful information.

Regards,
INTERMOUNTAIN PRODUCTS, INC.

Bob Merther

Robert A. Merther

cc: Stan Fulfer
Dave Robinson
John Wright