

FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

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Notes

UG Grace/Dewey and Almy Co.

In 1937-38 Manfred Bowditch
Director of the Mass. Div. Occ. Hyg.
stirred up an exchange of
letters involving A. Lanza,
L. U. Gardner, and Bradley Dewey
(President of Dewey + Almy Chem.
Co., successor name of the
former Multibestos Company
(d'd 1936). Dewey theorized
that Canadian asbestos was
less harmful than other
kinds, an idea Lanza said
about, "I cannot imagine
upon what the opinion is based."
Gardner said "It was my
feeling that most people were
convinced that there was little
difference in their capacity to
produce pulmonary reaction."

UG-
HJL(12/
4/37)

UG-MB
1/14/37
2/19/38)

123/38)

Later he reiterated this in a note
to Bowditch. This expert corres-
pondence was then sent to B. Dewey,
who replied with details for bearing
his hypothesis. Bowditch sent

3/8/38

this letter to AJL and LUG,
and Lanya replied first.

UG-MB

1/22/38

LB-BD

10/38 and

3/24/38)

AJL said none of the asbestos
companies thought they had
"trouble" until they had
"lawyer trouble." (Dewey and
his competitors) did not have any
trouble until the shysters got
busy. Neither Lanya nor LUG
seemed to give Dewey's letter
any weight. Bowditch sent
copies of each of these letters
on to Dewey.

Back in 1934, Dewey had
agreed to allow Bowditch's new
chemist, Hervey Elkins, visit
Waltham. Elkins' report
of a visit on Nov. 28, 1934 said
there had been cases of asbestosis
in the weave and carding rooms
the company's dust counts
ran mostly 1-2 MPPCF, except

6.7 MPPCF at a "carbide saw" and 31 MPPCF at a paper beater during its feeding. A man handling bags of asbestos was wearing a respirator during Elkins' visit, and he seemed as satisfied as a novice could be from a visual inspection and what the company told him that they were doing a decent job controlling asbestos dust in the plant.

WRG apparently brought Dewey's company letter on, and says none of this correspondence remains in its records. Letters appear to have come from Mass. govt files.