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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

July 10, 1968

NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH  
1014 BROADWAY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

REFER TO: ---

Mr. E. Lovick  
Plant Manager  
Zonolite Division  
W. R. Grace and Company  
Libby, Montana 59923

Dear Mr. Lovick:

I have discussed the situation at your vermiculite mine and mill with Dr. Cralley and other members of our Field Studies staff. One of the problems in assisting your abate excess exposure to dust is our lack of knowledge of the effects of tremolite asbestos. In our report we will assume that the biological activity of an airborne tremolite asbestos fiber is similar to other forms of asbestos. However, we can base this assumption on analogy only; we have no direct data relating exposure to tremolite asbestos to the health of workers.

For the past five years the Occupational Health Program has been conducting an epidemiological study of the asbestos products industry. This research study was requested by the major asbestos product manufacturers to define the health hazards associated with asbestos so that adequate engineering and medical controls could be applied. We have surveyed over thirty plants to date including users of chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite but we have not encountered tremolite asbestos exposures.

A major portion of this study involves the assembly of groups or cohorts of workers with a certain type of exposure. The names and social security numbers of these individuals are submitted to the Social Security Administration who report back to us with the names of those who are dead. We then obtain death certificates and are able to construct mortality tables for comparison with other similar non-exposed groups. In this way we can estimate the nature and degree of risk associated with exposure in the industry under study.

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Mr. E. Lovick - 7/10/63

In order to define the risk associated with tremolite asbestos exposure we would like to include the W. R. Grace Zonolite plant in our asbestos cohort study. To do this we would need the following information on all active and inactive employees who have worked for at least one month:

Name

Social Security Account No.

Date of Birth

Date(s) of Hiring

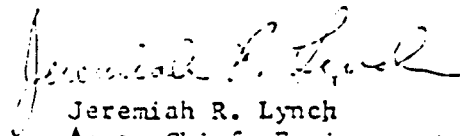
Date(s) of Separation (if inactive)

Work history

In other industries it has been found convenient for both the company and ourselves for us to microfilm the records at the plant personnel office. If you feel this would not be practical, an extract from the records containing the above information would be satisfactory. The data obtained from your records and from the Social Security Administration is for our internal statistical use only and we will not attempt to contact any individual.

We hope that you will be able to participate in our study since it is only through this sort of investigation that the health hazards associated with tremolite asbestos can be accurately defined.

Sincerely yours,



Jeremiah R. Lynch  
Asst. Chief, Environmental  
Activities  
Field Studies  
Occupational Health Program