

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

*File
in
214-21*

Scotts.

To: Al Davidson
cc: Distribution Below

From: S. V. Chamberlain

Subject: Vermiculite - Asbestos

Date: July 18, 1979

Thank you for your report of July 13, 1979. I have a major concern.

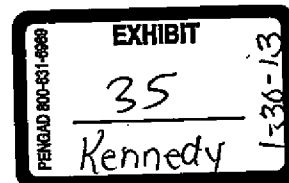
I am thoroughly convinced from this report we will never be able to accurately determine asbestos content of specific suppliers' vermiculite on samples drawn within our plant. I believe it is agreed that asbestos fibers continue to be air born for long periods of time within the plant environment. If we agree on this point, is it not safe to assume that vermiculite received from Libby one week, there could be carryover of asbestos fibers the following weeks. In effect, contaminating shipments from other sources at any time. I think this report upholds my concern when you find trace levels of tremolite-actinolite in all samples including African. Why no asbestos was detected in the two Virginia ore samples received in May 1979, is a mystery unless special care was taken on drawing in the sample.

In any event, I am convinced the only way we can be confident of any sample drawn is taking the sample from the source, not from our plant environment. In this way we should have no fear of cross contamination, and should be representative of our sources' product. To continue sampling and testing samples from our plant is a waste of time and money. My opinion.

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JUL 19 1979