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April 24, 1970

Mr. Ronald A. Wells
Turner Brothers Asbestos Company
Post Office Box 40
Rochdale, England

Dear Ronald:

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues at TBA for your many courtesies during my visit. It was a pleasure to meet with you and discuss our mutual problems.

I have started our part of the program to filter a large quantity of beer to be used in a final comparison study between our methods and especially to verify the feasibility of the X-ray method proposed by TBA.

As mentioned to Mr. Heron, it is possible that this method can be used with relatively pure substances, such as those encountered in the beer problem. However, I am skeptical about the feasibility of the method in studying air or other samples where the fiber concentration may be in the range of 0.1 per cent to as low as 0.001 per cent of the total solid material. If there are any samples that we can prepare for the comparative evaluation of mixed systems we shall be very happy to cooperate.

Our program with tracer techniques is still underway, but not yet completely reliable. We still are finding only about 50 per cent of the chrysotile fiber that we put into calibration samples and are attempting to determine the cause of this problem. I shall keep you informed of the results of our program as the data are developed.

Incidentally, I spent a very profitable and enjoyable morning with Mr. J. G. Davis at Cambridge reviewing in more detail his work on the glass MICRO FIBERS. He already had a series of animals started with MICRO QUARTZ, so that there is no need for me to send you samples of this material.

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Mr. Ronald A. Wells
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The results he has obtained on glass fiber point very strongly to an aspect ratio (L/D) affect. His pictures show clearly that the intensively milled glass fiber is extremely short and in many cases approaches the limit of what we normally consider to be a "fiber". I am attempting to separate some Coalings fibers into individual fibrils without damaging the surface or utilizing any chemical additives. You may remember that this material consists primarily of fibrils less than 1/4 micron in diameter, held together to form the fiber structure. This should serve as a good example of chrysotile of extremely low L/D ratio and can be compared with comparable fibrillar material of much greater length (L/D greater than 100) from Jeffrey. In both cases, the material should be relatively free from accessory minerals since we will centrifuge the material as a final step in the preparation.

If we are successful in preparing these samples, I shall send them to you for transmittal. Again, please accept my thanks for both an enjoyable and valuable day spent in Manchester.

Sincerely,

S. Spell, Director
Corporate, Mining & Pipe Divisions

SS/rs

cc: Mr. G. F. Heron, Manager
Turner Brothers Asbestos

bcc: F. L. Pundsack