February 19, 1938

Mr. Bradley Dewey, President
Dewey and Almy Chemical Company
235 Harvey Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Bradley:

Referring to our conversation on December 10th as to possible differences in the effects of various types of asbestos in causing asbestosis, you may think me mildly crazy in following up a matter which you indicated over the telephone the other day to be closed as far as you are concerned. While that is quite naturally the case, my interest in asbestosis and its causes is such that I am risking being put down as a pest by sending you herewith copies of two letters and an enclosure received some time ago from Drs. A. J. Lanza of the Metropolitan Life and L. U. Gardner of Saranac as an indirect result of my talk with you.

You will note that Dr. Gardner has experimented with five different types of asbestos, which I presume are about all there are. While his experiments have thus far been by injection, the best opinion seems to be that the results of injection are indicative of those to be expected from inhalation. If this is so, the fact that the five types give similar results by the former method may be taken to indicate that the inhalation effects would also be much alike.

Sincerely yours,

Manfred Bowditch
Director

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Conclusions and Recommendations

As indicated by the findings of the study it would appear that some progress had been made in reducing the dust concentrations in the dry mill but that such concentrations might not, now been reduced to a satisfactory level overall. Some work had been done to improve the ore carrying and ventilation systems such that they could perform as originally designed, but as enumerated under the sub-heading "Dust Producers", the dry mill still required a considerable amount of work to reduce the dust in this area to an acceptable level. The following are several recommendations concerning the exhaust system as well as the ore carrying and treating system:

1. That all the holes in the exhaust system be repaired such that no exhaust capacity is wasted at any location.

2. That constant maintenance be provided for the bottom and top connections on all of the vibrating screens and that the backs on all the screens be maintained with tight-fitting covers and maintained in good condition. Some of the machines were provided with rubber flaps which, no doubt, improved the exhaust characteristics considerably over those units; however, they still leaked badly and sacrificed a great deal of exhaust capacity that could be utilized at other locations.

3. That all of the holes in the ore conveying pipes be permanently closed or otherwise provided with tight fitting, removable access doors such that dust does not leak from these areas and such that exhaust capacity will not be sacrificed at these points. There were so many holes in the ore carrying portion of the dry mill system that they could not be enumerated.

4. That all of the transfer points for ore being deposited to open containers be adequately enclosed and provided with exhaust ventilation

5. That until such time as repair and maintenance of both the exhaust and the ore conveying systems has been completed, all the men in the dry mill be provided with and be required to wear an adequate respirator at all times.

6. That the conclusions and recommendations of the August, 1956 report be implemented for dust control measures since many of the recommendations presented at that time still apply.