

FILE NAME: RT Vanderbilt (RTV)

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at R&D Center Aug 31, 1976 Asbestos Minerals in Talc & Test Methods



Johns-Manville

File - ERM Prod To
Internal Correspondence

To: J. H. Swensen

Date: August 31, 1976

From: R. S. Lamar

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Subject: Meeting with Pfizer personnel at R&D Center August 31, 1976.
Asbestos Minerals in Talc and Test Methods

We met with Robert E. Norwood, Research Manager for Pfizer's Minerals, Pigments, and Metals Division and with Harold D. Stanley, Jr.; Group Leader, Testing.

This was a good meeting in that both Pfizer and J-M are essentially in agreement as to test methods and interpretation of data. They use all of the same procedures we do: XRD, TEM, SEM, DTA, TGA, etc. but seem to rely most heavily upon TEM and XRD.

We showed them our data on samples of their CP talcs indicating up to 30% tremolite by XRD. They couldn't understand this and we gave them portions of the same samples for testing. They promised to get back to Ed Fenner with their results.

They had complete analytical data on three samples of Penhorwood which they recently obtained from some unknown source. By XRD they show no asbestos minerals. They believe that their lower limit of detectability by XRD is 0.1% or less. By TEM all three Penhorwood samples showed platy talc with an occasional fiber - less than one fiber per field. They don't regard this as significant and would interpret this as no asbestos mineral by OSHA requirements. We gave them three additional Penhorwood samples from our files for additional studies.

We also discussed commercial talcs from other sources. They feel that R. T. Vanderbilt is completely "off the track" in their stand on OSHA regulations concerning asbestos minerals. They think it is only a matter of time until this stand completely destroys Vanderbilt.

They described Jack Bartel's "emotional" interest in buying Desert Minerals Co. from J-M but believe that this will not happen because they view this business the same way we do - the tremolite is too great a hinderance to marketing.

R. S. Lamar

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RSL/imb

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