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Battelle Memorial Institute

505 KING AVENUE COLUMBUS 1, OHIO

August 25, 1961

Mr. W. H. Ashton
Research Department
Johnson and Johnson
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ashton:

The following constitutes an evaluation of the exploration work done to date on the Hammondsville talc deposit.

Surface holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 indicate the probable reserves of talc to be in excess of one-half million tons of ore, and the possible reserves to be greater.

The cores from holes 1 and 2 were examined and discussed with Mr. P. Bleser. They show the following:

	Hole 1, feet	Hole 2, feet
Overburden	0- 14	0- 2
Schist	14-104	2-165
Talc	104-120	165-169
"Cinder"	120-125	169-179
Talc	125-127	179-200
Schist	127-150	200-212

The talc body appears to thin down-dip from the mine. The talc from hole 1 is slightly darker than current production due to more abundant opaques and greenish gangue components. However, the talc is superior to the off color "unsatisfactory" ore previously obtained from the corresponding part of the mine. The major section of ore from hole 2 is about current grade. Ore from these thinner parts of the ore body will necessarily have a higher percentage of dilution by wall rock and border phase ore than that from the thicker parts of the ore body, unless the ore is selectively mined.

The drilling of hole 3 was observed. The core showed the following:

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	Hole 3, feet
Overburden	0- 18
Schist	18-245
Talc (only 2' recovered)	245-249
Schist	249- —

The ore pinches in hole 3 in a position roughly down-dip from a similar pinching in the mine. Whether this thinning represents a continuation of that constriction of the ore seen in the mine, or a pinching-out down-dip, would have to be determined by further exploration. The ore from the center part of the talc section is of good grade; however, due to the poor recovery a composite sample shows a disproportionately high mica and amphibole contamination.

Hole 4 was selected during my recent visit. The results of the drilling were reported to me by Mr. V. Backels, as follows: talc from 147 to 193 feet, and from 203 to 265 feet, none to bottom at 273 feet. This is a total of 108 feet of talc. Eastern Magnesia will send to me specimens from the upper and lower talc zones for petrographic examination. The two zones were reported to have minor textural differences. The ore is reported to be high-grade white talc. Whether or not the platy character of the ore has been maintained in the thickened body is yet to be determined.

Generally speaking, the mineral purity and whiteness would be expected to be maintained or improved along the apparent strike of the ore toward the thicker section, and possibly to decrease down-dip from the mine. The character of the ore at the present heading and in hole 4 is of greater significance to the mineral nature of the deposit as a whole than is the character of the ore in holes 1, 2, and 3. A critical fact is whether or not the platy character of the talc is maintained throughout the greatly thickened section of the ore body.

Specific differences between the ore in the first three holes are not significant since proper sampling of the cores will not be possible until they are split, crushed, and composites are made for experimental work. Grain counts of the typical ore in cores 1, 2, and 3 showed the following range of composition:

Platy talc	60-65%
Nonplaty talc	1-4
Carbonates	30-35
Altered amphiboles	tr-1
Opaques (including pyrite)	tr->2
Chloritized silicates	<1->1
Micas	tr-1
Quartz, feldspar	tr
Rutile, fluorite, zircon, magnetite	0

Ore from hole 4 has not yet been examined.

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A sample of selected talc ore was high-graded from the pile near the roadside. This sample represents current ore without wall rock dilution and should correspond to selectively mined ore. The previous sample which was sent to Denver contained abundant gangue, more closely representing run-of- mine ore. The new sample was taken for comparative purposes, for possible work by Denver Equipment and Mr. Perkins. I have recommended to Mr. W. Magnus that Mr. Perkins repeat his initial beneficiation procedure (in which he obtained a product with a brightness of 84) on this newly obtained selected ore. The new sample of ore will also give Denver a chance to show what they can do with selectively mined ore.

The crystallographic habit of the talc in hole 4 and subsequent holes has yet to be determined. If the ore is uniform, the matter of reserves is no longer a problem. Inasmuch as the mine was flooded during my last visit to Hammondsville, it was impossible to sample the ore for rutile or to sample the current heading and shaft, as had been proposed. It is advisable that I take care of these details when I go to Vermont to study the subsequant cores, the composite sample, and the flotation products. A primary remaining problem is improving the color of the flotation product.

Very truly yours,

Bill

Wm. L. Smith
Principal Geologist

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P.S. I will be away from Columbus from September 1 through September 9. I have kept a week free in September for the North Carolina investigation, and have tentatively figured on a week in October for Vermont. Except for September 1 to 9, my schedule is reasonably flexible.