

Johns-Manville Corporation

22 East 40th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

Executive Offices

June 25, 1971

Mr. Frank M. Coda
Managing Director
Perlite Institute, Inc.
45 West 45th Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AS RELATED TO PERLITE

Dear Frank:

Over the past 15-20 years we, along with the Perlite industry, have been interested in the biological effects of Perlite dust as a result of inhalation of this material. Our interest and observations have been directed both toward the natural ore, and the expanded Perlite.

Preliminary studies of Perlite dust were conducted at the Trudeau Institute, Saranac Lake, N. Y. in 1953 and 1955. The follow-up of this work was conducted by the Ohio State University in 1959.

We have carefully observed the medical histories of our employees working both with the natural ore and the expanded product.

From approximately 1958-1962 we specifically studied the effects of health of Perlite dust with a group of employees engaged in the manufacturing of Perlite products. This study included 14x17" chest x-rays, on a semi-annual basis, over the approximate 4-5 year period.

Within the past year our Perlite Institute Environmental Study Committee met with Drs. R. T. P. deTreville and Paul Gross of the Industrial Health Foundation of America, and discussed health aspects of Perlite dust.

Information available to me to-date indicates that Perlite, in the form of natural ore and expanded, is a biologically inert substance which presents no health risk greater than any other nuisance-type dust.

Neither the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists nor the Federal Occupational Health and Safety Act, Federal Register, Saturday, May 29, 1971, Volume 36, No. 105, Part II, specifically prescribe a threshold limit value for Perlite dust. This too, would indicate that the material is considered innocuous.

If there is any additional information that you require, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Sheckler
Manager, Accident Prevention
and Health Administration

CLS:mw

cc: Dr. Francis Hutto - Johns-Manville Research Center

bcc: P. A. Martinson - Celite 270
E. M. Fenner - Research
J. Siegfried - Research