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TO: H. C. Duecker DATE July 14, 1977
FROM: Julie C. Yang SUBJECT Discussion with
Dr. W. Smith
CC: E. S. Wood
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File: 71-101/2

A call made to the Health Research Institute revealed that both Drs. William Smith and Doras Hubert are on vacation from July to September. I then called Dr. Smith in Seal Harbor, Maine, and discussed the percent survival rate of treated and untreated hamsters.

In Dr. Smith's letter to H. C. Duecker (July 5, 1977) the results showed survivals as follows:

<u>Samples Treated</u>	<u>Total Survival Rate</u>
100% Tremolite	55%
50-50 Vermiculite-Tremolite	71%
control	78%

*S. L. W.
11/1/77*
Dr. Smith felt this experiment does not prove that tremolite or tremolite-vermiculite combination causes problems other than respiratory to the animal. Any foreign material injected into the lung cavity would be a burden to the hamster.

In regard to the Delaney Amendment regulations, he is not aware of the effect of abnormal weight changes on the acceptability to animal test data. However, he said all the animals were observed daily and weighed monthly, and there is complete record of the weights which will be submitted to us in the final report. During their daily observations, if a hamster is changing weight rapidly, they isolate the animal to avoid the loss of the hamster eaten by the others upon death. In general, hamsters tend to gain weight suddenly and develop heart problems, and die of poor circulation. If the animals are kept thin, the cancer development is generally slower which has been shown in previous experiments. Excess weight loss is also a warning of disease development.

We also discussed the technique of preparation of fine small amphibole fibers.

Julie C. Yang

JCY:mlr

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