PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WRG-727

GRACE

Construction Products Division

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

WRG 000581

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March 29, 1977

To: R. H. Locke

From: E. S. Wood

Subj: Professional Epidemiological Study of Employees Exposed to Tremolite Fibers

cc: W. F. McCord
R. M. Vining
H. A. Eschenbach
J. W. Wolter
O. M. Favorito

This confirms our conversation of February 25th in which I authorized you to invite Dr. Brian MacMahon to visit us in Cambridge for the purpose of discussing the cost and benefits of a professional epidemiological study on all or selected parts of our present and past employees.

The benefits from such a consulting arrangement might be the following:

1. Establishment of a methodology for tracking any improvements in our employees' health that may result from the dramatic improvements in process and fiber control in Libby.

2. A clearer and more professional determination of whether the relatively low fiber counts at Kearney are "safe". In particular, we need to be able to extrapolate to relatively long exposure periods (20 years plus) and to determine whether the 14% incidence of positive chest x-rays among our employees is indeed due to factors other than the exposure to tremolite fibers.

3. Separation of the several factors which may influence positive chest x-rays in our expanding plants along the lines of my request to Eschenbach of 3/7/77 (memo attached). Our rough in-house

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analysis tends to indicate that plants using predominantly S.C. ore have good medical histories, while plants utilizing Libby ore do not. However, the data is very confused and extremely limited. In fact, the numbers of employees in any sub-group are probably too small to make statistically significant statements.

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4. Improvement in the reliability of our cause-effect conclusions by extending the study to a larger population of employees to include past employees and/or retirees.

5. Determination of the cancer risk, which is not addressed by any of our present studies, through an analysis of "cause of death" from selected groups of past employees.

In establishing the ground rules for our first meeting, it seems to me that we should get together and talk about what we want to learn from the first meeting, whether or not we would be willing to fund a project even if it were to give us the benefits listed above, and what information we may be willing to share with Dr. MacMahon which would not be privileged or confidential.

I believe these are questions which would be appropriately discussed at the next Tremolite Committee meeting. By copy of this memo, I invite comments from those on the distribution who are not members of the Tremolite Committee.

Chip

E. S. Wood

ESW/CGR
Attachment

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