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Telegram

TO:

Dr. Alexander M. Schmidt
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Johns-Manville Products Corporation understands that FDA will shortly publish in the Federal Register final regulations which would prohibit the use of talc containing asbestos in food and food packaging materials unless the talc is 99.9% free of amphibole asbestos fibers and 99.99% free of chrysotile asbestos fibers.

Such action would cause irreparable and irreversible harm to Johns-Manville and other companies in the talc industry and is clearly against the weight of evidence presented to FDA. The publicatio of such regulations would likely result in the cessation of all Johns-Manville talc production and sales within a very short period of time, if not immediately.

We believe the decision by FDA is being based on substantial pressure from certain environmental groups and is not based on facts relative to any immanent danger. We would hope that FDA would not embark on another cyclamate fiasco which would destroy the U.S. talc industry.

Johns-Manville requests that FDA carefully reconsider any decision made or to be made on this matter in light of the above. Additionally, Johns-Manville requests that a copy of the final regulations being considered by FDA be forwarded to us immediately for review. We would be glad to meet with you at any time to review

the final regulations being considered, as to its justification and effects on U.S. industry.

Johns-Manville has previously advised FDA that it was willing to conduct any further medical or scientific tests which FDA would deem necessary to arrive at a sound decision in this matter.

We have urged the adoption of interim regulations in accordance with Section 121.4000 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, to give industry sufficient time to conduct further studies approved by FDA before any final regulations are published and to avoid the disastrous consequences resulting from the mere publication of such at this time.

Your immediate response to this telegram is requested.

Perry Martinson
Vice-President
Johns-Manville Products Corporation
Greenwood Plaza
Denver, Colorado 80217
303 770 1000