

FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

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The B. F. Goodrich Company

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ADDRESS REPLY TO: DEPT. 2050 BLOC. 28-F

January 16, 1974

Mr. W.H. Cooper
Director, Environmental Affairs
Johns-Manville
Greenwood Plaza
Denver, Colorado 80217

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I attended the meeting in Cleveland on January 15, 1974 concerning asbestos and the related health hazards. The first topic ("The Medical Facts on Asbestos") included several slides which were intended to show that airborne asbestos fibers in amounts of less than 5 fibers/cc did not increase the risk of disease. Since there was only a few minutes to look at any one of the slides, it was impossible to really be convinced of the conclusions which the speaker was drawing. This difficulty was increased by one slide in particular which showed more deaths than participants in a study of insulation workers by Dr. Selikoff. The speakers answer to a question about the apparent contradiction was not at all definitive. Also, Mr. Solon in the question and answer period referred to Selikoff in an uncomplimentary way as being more interested in headlines than medical facts. The suspicion that Selikoff's data was misrepresented does not seem unreasonable. Would you send either copies of the papers from which the slides were taken or a bibliography to me?

There is another question which I would like to ask concerning the presence of asbestos fibers in talc. The director of environmental affairs at Goodrich sent a reference to a proposed regulation concerning talcs "contaminated" with asbestos fibers to me with the question, "Can we do this?" I sent for a copy of the Federal Register, Vol. 38, No. 188 - Friday, Sept. 28, 1973, pp. 27076-27081 which contained the proposal. Paragraph 121.2006, section C is the specific section in question.

This paragraph describes a rather unbelievable (at least to me) procedure where one milligram samples of talc are mixed with oils of appropriate refractive indices. These preparations are examined with a polarizing microscope and all particles with aspect ratios of three or more, being at least five microns in length and having the appropriate refractive index are counted as asbestos.

"A count of not more than 1000 amphibole types of asbestos fibers and not more than 100 chrysotile asbestos fibers per milligram slide constitutes the maximum."

Would you comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

The B.F. Goodrich Company

R. Lindesmith

R. Lindesmith
Microscopy Laboratory

...in pursuit of excellence

mhs

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