R.M. Vining, President
Construction Products Division

W.R. Grace & Co.
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To A.I.D.

GRACE

December 16, 1977

Mr. F. L. Herron, Jr.
O. M. Scott & Sons
333 North Maple Street
Marysville, Ohio 43040

cc: A.I.D.

Dear Lee:

The meeting between our two groups at Scott House was extremely valuable to us. We now have a much better understanding of Scott's ranking of several aspects of the tremolite question as well as your concerns.

During the meeting, you asked that we share information on our tests concerning the level of tremolite in Turf Builder. Attached are internal Grace reports of tests performed on 14 bags of Turf Builder received from Scott on November 11, 1977, which are for your use and information only. By separate memo, I have asked Dr. Duecker to send test procedures used in the determinations to Mr. Allan Davidson.

As you can see, the reports indicate that no tremolite was detected in the finished product. During application, no respirable free-form tremolite was found in the user's breathing zone. Please understand that we believe these reports to be true and accurate. However, we can assume no responsibility for the use of the reports by Scott nor can we know how well the samples tested may represent typical Scott Turf Builder production.

The most recent information described above generally confirms an earlier and less rigorous test in March 1977 of Turf Builder in which product assay showed no detectable tremolite and air samples during use showed 0.15 to 0.17 f/ml (representing one fiber in 50 fields on filters operating over a 23-minute sampling period). Background fiber

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levels were not monitored before or during the earlier test, so we would have no way of determining whether the fibers observed were from the use of Turf Builder or from background contamination. It is quite possible that what we were seeing was from the background.

These reports have caused us to speculate that something about the Trionize process or Scott's equipment or procedures may be removing or binding the respirable free-form tremolite asbestos present in the vermiculite ore. We hope you will give consideration to our request to jointly study this possibility.

Finally, we want you to know that your business represents an important, long-range part of the Libby mine output. We are committed to take steps to reduce tremolite content in our vermiculite concentrate to the minimum extent possible.

Very truly yours,

R. M. Vining

RMV/BLD
Attachments