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TEXAS VERMICULITE COMPANY

2651 Manila Road
Dallas, Texas

At the request of the Texas Vermiculite Company, a study was made of the dust conditions in the plant at 2651 Manila Road. Mr. R. L. Junker, Manager of the plant, provided operational details of the processes, which in general expand by heat, certain mica and volcanic glass materials to produce a very light-weight aggregate. This material has a variety of properties and many uses in industry, one of which is the production of an accoustical material, Zonolite, containing about 20% asbestos fiber.

Air samples were taken in a 25% ethyl alcohol solution with a midget impinger. The periods of sampling were from 12 to 15 minutes in areas believed to be reasonably representative of the conditions in the environment of the workers. Dust particles in the samples were later counted, using standard methods in a Spencer bright-line counting chamber, under 430 X magnification and transmitted light.

Sample No. 1 taken in the area of the perlite sacking and weighing operation contained 3.4 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Sample No. 2 taken in the area of the mixer for Zonolite accoustical material contained 5.2 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Sample No. 3 taken near the sacking and weighing operation for Zonolite accoustical materials contained 8.4 million particles per cubic foot of air.

The dust in the area of the Perlite sacking operation (Sample No. 1) is primarily made up of a micaceous material which has an accepted Threshold Limit of 20 mppcf (million particles per cubic foot). The dust count in this area was 3.4 mppcf and therefore at the time, and under the conditions which the sample was taken, there does not appear to be a health hazard.

The dust in the area of the Zonolite mixing and sacking operations contains about 20% asbestos in a mixture of Bentonite and micaceous material. The Threshold Limit for this mixture of dusts, on the basis of 5 mppcf for asbestos and 20 mppcf