

FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: September 15, 1961

DOC#: WRG201

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1961 Memorandum to Joe Kelly, Zonolite Company, regarding Minnesota Public Health Department concern regarding dust exposure in vermiculite plants.

cc: Mr. J.H. Bishop
Bishop, Buriett, Falasz & Doherty
Suite 1820, Board of Trade Building
Chicago 4, Illinois

Max F. Corso
L.J. Venard
Vern Okerlund

✓ Mr. Earl D. Lovick
✓ Zenolite Company
✓ P.O. Box 607
Libby, Montana

September 15, 1961

Mr. J.A. Melley
Zenolite Company
135 South La Salle Street
Chicago 3, Illinois

Dear Joe:

I have mentioned to you the concern our Minneapolis Public Health Department is showing, regarding dust exposure in the vermiculite plants. They became particularly concerned when all of the men working in the B.F. Nelson plant showed cloudiness in their lungs and we were then requested to supply x-rays from a number of our men, as a basis for their further study.

It seems to me that we should be as cooperative with the Public Health officials as possible and I have felt we should share the information contained in Earl Lovick's June 14th letter with these officials. A copy of that letter is being attached for you and for Jack Bishop and we would like your opinion as to whether or not this should be supplied to these officials as background for them.

We are having the Aetna Insurance Company make dust analyses in all of our four plants and have requested that this be done annually. They have just completed a test in Omaha and their report is most favorable, indicating that the concentration of dust, where men are required to work, is very low. They didn't run a test in the ore bins at the time of unloading but they have commented that the men were wearing respirators while doing this work. They found nothing to be alarmed about and have made some minor suggestions with which we expect to comply.

Aetna has reviewed Earl Lovick's letter and we have a reply from them, stating that they see no harm in sharing this information with our Public Health officials. However, they suggested that it would be well for us to have an expression from you before releasing such information.

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Will you review this letter now and perhaps get an expression from Jack Bishop and advise whether or not you would be agreeable to having this letter made available to the Minneapolis officials.

Yours very truly,

WESTERN MINERAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

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C.A. Pratt
Vice President

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