Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in reply to your letter to T. P. Norris dated July 13, 1973.

Our asbestos does not contain any of the materials listed on page 10929 of Federal Register, Vol. 38, No. 85 - Thursday, May 3, 1973, nor any derivatives of those materials nor any potential for degrading in paper or pulp making to form one of the listed materials or their derivatives.

However, we must advise you that the FDA has revcked our approval letter which permitted the use of asbestos as an inert filler in paper and paperboard intended for use in contact with food. The FDA action was not specifically directed toward asbestos but was an overall change in policy. A copy of the directive is attached.

This does not mean that asbestos is unsafe for this application and we know of no evidence of deleterious health effects. Asbestos can be approved for use as a filler in food packaging if there is no migration of asbestos from the packaging to the food. This involves a rather extensive series of solvent extraction tests and we are considering the program. It is our understanding that you do not use HPP in producing paper for food packaging.

Please contact Tom or me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

John L. Myers
Marketing Manager

cc: T. P. Norris

/ds