

Mr. Cowan - Eagle Picher - Pa 7010

A diatomaceous earth product of the Eagle Picher Company which it mines and manufactures in Nevada.

Material is used on industrial floors as an adsorbant, and Mr. Cowan is anxious to know whether there is any risk of silicosis to the user. The manufacturing process involves the use of heat up to 1850°F which may change some of the material to a crystalline form. I told him that unless there was a considerable amount of crystalline silicon dioxide in it that the dangers were probably small. I also told him that the material would have to be examined to ascertain its exact nature in the finished state. Will you please call him on Monday or Tuesday and make a date when he can see you to ascertain the magnitude of the project and its probable cost? We have looked up the literature and the risk from natural diatomaceous earth unprocessed, even in very dusty mines, does not seem to be great.

Wm. F. Ashe, M.D.

1-20-49

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