

GEORGE D. CLAYTON & ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SPECIALISTS

SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN 48075

EXHIBIT

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hg Litigation Services

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EVALUATION OF EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DURING
MIXING AND SANDING OF JOINT COMPOUNDS

GYPSUM ASSOCIATION
Denver, Colorado

November 19, 1973

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INTRODUCTION

The Gypsum Association retained George D. Clayton and Associates to conduct an industrial hygiene survey at a test site located in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of the survey was to determine the concentrations of airborne asbestos to which workers were exposed during mixing and sanding of joint cement compounds and to interpret the results in terms of potential health hazards with particular reference to regulations promulgated under authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This study was conducted on November 19, 1973 by Mr. Robert D. Soule of Clayton and Associates. Results of that study are reported herein.

BACKGROUND

The Gypsum Association, located at 1603 Orrington Avenue in Evanston, Illinois is a trade association which represents ten to fifteen industrial companies which are engaged in the manufacture of products incorporating gypsum or gypsum-like materials. As with most industrial concerns, the activities of the Gypsum Association have become more broad with the passage and implementation of federal regulations such as the Metal and Non-Metallic Mine Safety Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Technical committees composed of personnel from companies comprising the Gypsum Association have been established with particular interest in the occupational safety and health field. Of particular concern in this respect was the potential hazard associated with exposure of workers to airborne asbestos during mixing and sanding of compounds used to seal cracks and joints formed during installation of wallboard material. Although the specific formulations used by the various companies manufacturing and supplying the joint compound vary, it is understood that essentially all of them incorporate asbestos in the product whether as a dry compound or a ready-mix product.

In order to evaluate the exposure of workers to asbestos during handling and use of the joint compound products, the Gypsum Association decided to undertake a test program during which several products would be mixed and sanded. George D. Clayton and Associates was retained to collect and analyze samples which would represent the exposure of workers engaged in the study. The tests were performed on November 19, 1973 in a development of townhouses known as King's Mill Townhouses, which were under construction in a suburban area north of Denver, Colorado.

POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

Asbestos is a generic term referring to various mineral silicates. The types used most widely in industrial applications include chrysotile, or "white asbestos" (a hydrated magnesium silicate), amosite,