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TO: Mr. W. M. Stephenson

FROM: R. W. Linnett

SUBJECT: FIRE RETARDANT PRODUCTS

Harry Rourke has been working on two very sizable Kilnoise jobs. The first is a new subway in Toronto. The second is a subway to be built in Washington, D. C.

Kilnoise has not performed acoustically when applied to a solid backing. Efforts are being made to find a way to increase its sound absorbancy. Kilnoise contains asbestos. Research at Easton is working on formulation modifications that would eliminate asbestos. The asbestos content is not a problem at this time; however, it is reasonable to assume that it may be in the future.

In Harry's memo of 9/9/71, attached, indicates a tremendous market for a construction material such as Kilnoise possessing fire proofing properties. I asked Harry to forward information on fire retardancy specifications and test procedures. (Also attached are Harry's letter of 9/10/71 and The Gypsum Association's Brochure on "Design Data" for Fire Resistance and Sound Control.

The potential indicated for an improved Kilnoise and a fire retardant construction product is enormous. It appears to me that the technology used to understand and formulate acceptable products is similar to that required for the search for improved fire retardant pigments for the carpet industry, Firex and Pyrolytic Graphite products.

The idea I'm promoting is a systematic and unified approach to develop products that fill fire retardancy needs in not only the markets mentioned above but the many others that have a need.

May I suggest that you look into the feasibility of a more formal approach to developing products for these needs.

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