FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: April 11, 1977

DOC#: WRG184

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1977 Memo to WR Hanlon from HC Duecker regarding Tremolite in Verxite

CAMBRIDGE

RECD APR 12 1977

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TO: W. R. Hanlon

DATE: April 11, 1977

FROM: H. C. Duecker

SUBJECT: Tremolite in Verxite

CC: O. M. Favorito
H. A. Eschenbach
R. M. Vining
E. S. Wood
J. C. Yang

Julie Yang has assembled most of the documents required to estimate the potential problem on ingestion of tremolite in Verxite. The reading and analysis of the problem has, however, been assigned too low a priority to have any meaningful conclusions at this time (in contrast with the timing in my memo of February 18, 1977, to J. C. Yang).

The problem does not appear to be too significant since (1) we have not yet been able to find any tremolite in Verxite, (2) the levels of asbestos contamination from rice appears to be many times greater than that possible with Verxite, (3) there appears to be no universal agreement among research scientists that ingested asbestos particles are a source of a carcinogenic effect, and (4) the water in most city water supplies probably presents a greater source of asbestos contamination than could Verxite since it is consumed in much larger quantities.

H. C. Duecker

HCD:mlr

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