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Spura
August 26, 1958

SUBJECT: Discussion of Chemolite Wastes with
Mr. Johannes of the State Water
Pollution Control Board.

Mr. Johannes visited Chemolite on August 21, 1958, to inspect our recently constructed skimmer installation and discuss waste analyses as reported to the State by 3M. In conformance with their policy, we currently make periodic analyses of the wastes at the weir and discharge from the lagoon into the river and report these monthly to the State Board of Health. Mr. Johannes was critical principally of our high BOD reading which varied from 100 to 190. At the time of the granting of our original construction permit, they set a limit of 100 ppm. He stated that higher BOD readings were especially critical at this time because of the low flow and low oxygen in the Mississippi River. He was very cooperative and anxious to assist us in any way possible in determining causes of high BOD in our waste and proper corrective measures to be taken.

He suggested that if we were agreeable, that they might come over the third week in September and assist us in analyzing our Chemolite wastes, particularly at each operating building. We definitely want to discourage this as they might find something in our wastes which we are ourselves not aware of and definitely do not want this information in the State Health Board's records. For this reason we propose to initially take continuous samples at these buildings ourselves and have the analyses made both by Hastings Chemical and Central Research. If necessary, it may be desirable to have Twin Cities Testing Laboratories check the analyses. After this information has been compiled, and we have had an opportunity to compare total waste discharge with that of several years ago, we will be in a better position to discuss this problem with the State Water Pollution Control Board. We would then suggest, if it is desirable, that the State check our analyses at the weir and discharge point to the river. Mr. Johannes stated that they did not have any up to date figures on limits for Fluoride wastes, but felt that 20 ppm should be satisfactory for the ravine and less than 1 ppm for the river.

After the above tests have been made and results analyzed, it appears Engineering will have to come up with a means of reducing BOD.

Bob Ahlness and the writer discussed the problem with Mr. Johannes in the office and then later we escorted him through the Chemolite Plant. Howard Sampair and Bob Garbor, who runs the 3M analyses, also met Mr. Johannes. Mr. Johannes stated that an interim committee has been set up by the State Legislature to look into present water pollution laws. The committee will submit recommendations for new laws or changes to existing laws to tighten up on waste control. He stated that the State has very little data on the Chemolite Plant and, therefore, they wish to have more complete analyses of our wastes. They are making a similar survey of all other plants who discharge waste into the Mississippi River.

All plants such as 3M have construction permits and the State is encouraging these plants, after they have complied with conditions, to file for permanent permits. Based on changing conditions at Chemolite, we do not see any advantages in having a permit. As I understand it, it is necessary to have a public hearing in order to change a permanent operating permit. We want to avoid a public hearing at all costs, based on our experience attending previous public hearings in St. Paul.

F. B. Richerson
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cc: C. W. Bentz, A. R. Diesslin, J. H. Kugler, A. D. Martino, R. R. McKenzie,
W. H. Pahl, H. Parkinson, C. P. Pesek, R. L. Post, H. W. Rehfeld, H. F. Sampair,
J. E. Smith, A. Zoss

Exhibit
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State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,
Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862

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