PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WRG-450

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C. A. Finafrock
San Fernando Valley Eng.

August 11, 1965

J. M. Robinson
Technical Services
MD Engineering

California Zonolite Co. (33)
5440 W. San Fernando Rd.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Client: Mr Locke 3-7-65
3300 44107

Dear Craig:

We checked the five samples which you submitted from the above for free silica content and find that none of these samples contain more than a trace (less than 1% free silica). The one sample (Sample No. 4) very definitely is made up of asbestos particles and this could very definitely present a possible health hazard.

I would like to point out that any chemical analysis such as you forwarded on "Zonolite" which lists silica, SiO_2, usually does not state in which form it is in. In this particular case the SiO_2 content is in a combined form and not in the free or quartz state. It is the latter which does present a silicosis exposure.

Although we did not find free silica in the Vermiculite samples, I would like to point out that this material is a form of mica and although it does not present a very serious health exposure, nevertheless, there are threshold limits for mica of 20 million particles per cubic foot of air, and some authorities feel that it does have a slight pneumoconiosis producing property.

I very definitely feel if the No. 4 sample was a ledge dust sample that you very definitely have a rather serious asbestosis exposure here. If this asbestos handling operation is not physically separated from the other operations, then there is the possibility that some of this dust could have gotten over to the area where this man works and he may have had some exposure to this. We cannot actually determine the presence of asbestos in the other ledge dust sample as there is no sure method for this. We did check for fiber particles and did note some in the other samples.

In your letter you mention that there is no visible dust in the atmosphere but it should be remembered that the particles which we are interested in and can do damage are particles that you cannot see with the naked eye. If there were no particular operations running when you observed it, the dust concentration could be low, but the only way to know for sure would be with air sampling.

If we can be of further services, please let us know.

J. M. Robinson

jm/l
cc: Los Angeles Eng. and T. Schizas, Los Angeles Claim

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