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Identification procedures

Developed July 11, 1979
Asbestos fibers from various sources

Adaptation of physical methods to identify asbestos fibers

Mr. S. Cuffe

Environmental Protection Agency

ESED, MD13

Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27711

Dear Mr. Cuffe:

As a followup to our recent meeting with Congressman Oberstar on June 19, I am enclosing copies of a document entitled, "Critique of Provisional Methodology of Airborne Asbestos Concentrations" by R.J. Lee and D.M. Scott. This critique and the general question of the validity of the EPA Provisional Methodology for asbestos identification were discussed with J. Wagman (EPA), G.H. Wood (EPA), R.M. Fisher (USS), and myself on August 23, 1978. At that time, R.M. Fisher agreed to summarize our understanding of the discussion, which he did in a letter to J. Wagman (attached). I believe the problems with the "provisional method" as well as the needed modifications are summarized in that letter and in our Critique.

During our meeting with you, Dr. Cooper summarized the epidemiological data on asbestos and nonasbestos amphiboles, emphasizing that, up until now, epidemiological results have not implicated nonasbestos amphibole in the production of asbestos disease. As Drs. Cooper and Coffin emphasized, this does not rule out some health effects. Rather, the results of past studies indicate that the asbestos and nonasbestos amphiboles have different potentials for tissue modification. Dr. Coffin's proposal for animal studies to quantify the relative effects using well-characterized samples should receive high priority.

Regardless of the eventual outcome of animal and epidemiological studies, further work on the analytical procedures

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

USX-1097

Mr. S. Cuffe
July 11, 1979

RJL/d

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