



August 17, 1967

Dr. Lewis J. Cralley, Director
Epidemiology and Field Studies
National Center for Urban and Industrial Health
United States Public Health Service
1014 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Dr. Cralley:

The fibrous glass and mineral wool industry are disturbed at the possible impact upon this vital industry of alleged health hazards which are said to result from exposure to these materials both during manufacturing and fabrication and use of these materials.

Damage to the industry resulting from false statements could have a significant effect on the National economy. Attachment 1 describes the importance of these materials to the National economy. However, if there is a threat to health, prompt action must be taken to protect against this hazard. Industry's evaluation of its own experience with these materials thus far has not indicated the existence of a health hazard.

The industry's concern in regard to the alleged health hazards stimulated the formation of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee of the National Insulation Manufacturers Association (NIMA). As you know, this Committee brought together all available medical research data on the possible medical effects of fibrous glass and mineral wool. You reviewed the data at our request and advised in your letter to NIMA dated April 3, 1967 that a broadly based study was needed. The NIMA Board of Directors on May 16, 1967 unanimously agreed to seek the assistance of the U. S. Public Health Service in initiating a study of the fibrous glass and mineral wool industry with respect to alleged health hazards. At the discretion of the U. S. Public Health Service, the study may include environmental, clinical and epidemiological investigations. The Board authorized the Occupational Health and Safety Committee to take appropriate action with the Public Health Service in order to have the above study initiated as soon as practicable.

In a preliminary meeting of the Health and Safety Committee meeting with you on June 5, 1967 to discuss the study of the fibrous glass and mineral wool industry, you requested certain employment data concerning those plants manufacturing fibrous glass and/or mineral wool. We understood this data would form one basis for considering the feasibility of the industry-wide study.

42 013 0931

Dr. Lewis J. Cralley
August 17, 1967

Page 2

This letter is to thank you for the opportunity of meeting with you to discuss our industry's problem and also to express the eagerness of the Managements of our industry to cooperate with you in every way in the accomplishment of whatever study you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Lee B. Grant, M.D., Chairman
Occupational Health and Safety Committee
National Insulation Manufacturers Assn.

lms
Attachment

cc: Mr. J. F. Vyverberg, President
National Insulation Manufacturers Assn.

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FIBER GLASS AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

The fiber glass business has grown from a \$4 million one-company operation in 1937, to a \$400 million industry involving five major corporations and a half-dozen small companies during 1967. Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of plant and equipment, and some 20,000 persons are directly employed in the research, manufacture, and marketing of fiber glass. As in any major industry, the multiplier effect must be considered when evaluating the impact of fiber glass on the Nation's economy. For example, consider that fiber glass is the major material installed by nearly 20,000 asbestos workers; comprises nearly one-half of the fabric cut and sewn into curtains and draperies by over 22,000 employees of the ready-made curtain and drapery industry; and is an indispensable basic material used by the 500 plus companies molding products from fiber glass reinforced plastic products.