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ZONOLITE

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIVISION

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT No. WRG-1384

H. A. Brown — October 15, 1971

W. R. GRACE & CO., P.O. BOX 609 LIBBY, MONTANA 59923 406-293-4131

R. L. Oliverio — Peter Kostic's Letter of October 1, Bureau of Mines Report - Libby

O. F. Stewart, Peter Kostic

Peter Kostic's letter raises a couple of good questions that we should have answered.

1. Peter must be as puzzled as we are here at Libby about the difference between the number of fibers in the samples Rex Smith has taken and those taken by the Bureau of Mines people.

   Pete gives four possibilities as to why this difference exists. We have checkedRex Smith's technique and do not feel it is wrong.

   There is one point that needs clarification, however. Rex takes his sample for 90 minutes exposure but the Bureau of Mines used a different technique. On page 4, paragraph 5, in their report, they state "On a time-weighted-average basis, the top floor operator was exposed to more than five times the TLV." You will then notice in the Appendix II of their report that the length of time exposure per sample varied from a few to several minutes. All samples were for less than 90 minutes. My question is: Is it not possible that we may be comparing different quantities? Rex's samples are a direct count quantity, whereas the Bureau's is a calculated quantity. Their phrase "time-weighted-average"--does this mean adjusted to 90 minutes or 8 hours per day, etc.?

2. Pete also states the problem we may have in the mining operation during dry spells. I do feel we should and will take additional samples in this area when it is dry and dusty. If we come up with marginal results maybe it would be wise to have the Bureau re-sample this area later.

   The idea of fitting our mobile equipment (trucks, dozers, shovels, etc.) with oil filtered cab ventilaing equipment is something we'll have to study after getting better dust counts. This surely would be expensive since the cabs would also have to be air-conditioned for summer use when the dry season is in full swing.

3. I certainly hope we can make enough improvements in the wet mill so we will not have to require the wearing of respirators in the wet mill area. Presently we are not requiring this and it is no doubt it would be an inconvenience to our employees.

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We are enclosing our lunch rooms to reduce the dust conditions and I do feel it will be helpful. Samples will be taken after this is completed to see if the count drops to acceptable TLV levels.

I certainly appreciate Pete's comments and we are going to contact Lompoc to gather more information on this cab ventilation system. We do, however, need an answer on this question of sampling difference so we can determine exactly where we stand. It seems our samples will be of little value if we cannot compare like results. We are not receiving results on the samples Rex takes on a regular basis. The latest results of his samples are dated October 1970. Could you see that we get these results more frequently?

R L Oliverio

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GRACE

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