agglomerates and fiber bundles by mashing between glass surfaces. This method offers the advantage of improving the uniformity of dispersion and eliminating obscuring matter, allowing a true assessment of total mass of asbestos fibers; however, it has the disadvantage of destroying the original particle size distribution. We also described an electron diffraction method of absolute identification of individual chrysotile asbestos fibrils seen in the electron microscope.

Bendix Research prefers to use sample preparation procedures which preserve the original particle size distribution without breaking up fiber bundles into individual fibrils. They are not yet clear on how to do this without risking overlooking concealed fibers, but they intend to try such methods as low temperature ashing of the filter sample without mashing, followed by scanning and/or transmission electron microscope examination. Bendix brought up the possibility of our laboratories trading samples for examination — we indicated we might be receptive to such a plan and would keep the suggestion in mind.

Bendix plans to have four or five individuals working on this program on and off — they did not reveal the total man-effort involved. They plan to start vehicle testing by the first week in September 1971 and to complete the work to the point of completing a rough draft of the project report by April 1972. We will attempt to keep informed of the status of their program.

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