

The University of Vermont

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
GIVEN BUILDING, BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401



March 24, 1977



Mr. Roger Miller
President
Windsor Minerals, Inc.
P.O. Box 690
Windsor, Vermont 05089

Dear Mr. Miller:

I felt I should get back to you as quickly as possible after our recent meeting because I know you have decisions to make regarding further action. Dr. Whitehead and I have discussed the meeting at some length and believe that there are some major philosophic differences about the proposed contract, each legitimate from our respective fields of science and business, that are likely to leave neither you nor us satisfied.

I had indicated to you that we do not see ourselves as consultants to industry but rather, within the context of an academic institution, as scientists pursuing scientific questions, some of which we felt are relevant to the interests of Windsor Industries. We also feel very strongly that in doing an industry-funded project our work not only must be scientifically beyond reproach but also must have every appearance of being so. Lack of this appearance destroyed a very competent researcher at McGill, and it is not our intention to repeat such folly.

On your part, within usual business practices, you have every reason to expect that if Windsor Industries pays for the effort it should have the authority to maintain some control over it, whether you wish to exercise that authority or not. But the very fact of your latent authority is what is likely to be questioned by many of our scientific peers. (I'm not even thinking of credibility with NIOSH). Furthermore, as a nonprofit institution we are forbidden not to make all of our data available to the union or anyone else.

As Dr. Whitehead and I have reviewed the project we do not believe the scientific questions are so compelling as to warrant our risking reputations that have been carefully nurtured. Since, as you indicated, you have already made contact with other groups who are willing to take on the activity as a consulting function we think it probably would be foolish on your part to look only to our needs and to overlook your business interests. We do appreciate your interest and willingness to seek out a Vermont source before going elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Julian A. Waller, M.D.

Julian A. Waller, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

JAW/djb

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