

GRACE

Zonolite
Construction Products Division

TO: Jack Wolter

DATE: May 6, 1965

FROM: Bill McCaig

SUBJECT: Inquiry Concerning Health of
Libby Operation Employees

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Peter Ajenian, who identifies himself as a reporter working for an organization called "Public Citizen", has been making contacts among the Libby medical community concerning the health condition of employees who work for Grace.

As far as I know, he first contacted Dr. Roger Brus, a Libby surgeon, late yesterday afternoon. Dr. Brus expressed a reluctance to talk to him on the subject since he had no knowledge of who he was or where he was coming from. The man persisted, and Dr. Brus told me he played dumb on the subject, so to speak. He gave the man no reply of substance and acted as though asbestos-related diseases was something he had read about when Hanville had their troubles, etc. Mr. Ajenian, however, persisted and asked specific questions concerning x-rays and their interpretation, and Dr. Brus referred him to Dr. Tyler Gill, the Libby radiologist.

Later in the evening this gentleman called Dr. Tyler Gill who told him that he felt there was no problem in Libby at the present time. Dr. Gill was quoted as saying that he would have no qualms advising his own brother to accept a position to work for Grace in Libby, were it offered. When questioned about public outcry or community uprising concerning the health effects created by the operation, Dr. Gill replied that there was none. Dr. Gill informed Mr. Ajenian that he had recently moved to the community of Libby and had no idea why the operation wasn't shut down in the past or something more wasn't done to control what the reporter characterized as a "terrible problem".

Ajenian mentioned Harlan Anandus to Dr. Gill, and told him he was aware of the NIOSH study. He also told Dr. Gill that he had access to some public records concerning health problems at Libby through NIOSH.

I'll be in Butte on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week and can be contacted at the Copper King Inn (406-494-6666). The first part of next week I will make some quite and discrete inquiries among the rest of the medical staff in Libby to try and find out if there have been other contacts made.

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W.J. McCaig:cb