

FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

DATE: 1973 Mar 20

DOC#: TALC449

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE J&J Statement RE Processing
of Talc

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Research & Development Center
March 20, 1973

E. B. Smith - Desert Minerals

JOHNSON & JOHNSON STATEMENT RE
PROCESSING OF TALC
Your letter of March 5 to R. P. Carter

In my opinion, the letter from Johnson & Johnson does not answer specifically the question "is it possible to remove asbestos minerals from talc?" The J&J statement states under Section 1, page 1, "the J&J process for beneficiating Vermont talc, which we believe to be the most advanced in the field, will not guarantee a zero tolerance for elongated particles". On the basis of this statement, it is conceivable that the J&J process could eliminate all the asbestos minerals and still leave elongated talc particles.

What we are looking for is a statement that no known process for providing talc will remove all of the asbestos minerals. The J&J statement does not give us any supporting information.

S. SPEIL

SS/rs

cc:

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