

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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July 6, 1949

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WV-01167

Mr. W.D. Bennetts
Chief Factory Inspector
Industrial Commission of Colorado
628-630 State Capitol Annex
Denver 2, Colorado

Dear Mr. Bennetts:

In response to your letter of June 27, we are glad to send you information about the possible effects on the lungs and respiratory tract resulting from exposure to glass fiber dust.

Basic research in this field was conducted at Saranac from 1933 to 1941 under the direction of Dr. LeRoy U. Gardner. In his 1941 report as director of Trudeau Sanatorium, Dr. Gardner listed the following conclusions:

"Exposure to dust of glass wool, a material used commonly to insulate buildings, involves no hazard for the lungs because this fibrous material is not inhalable." (A reprint of the page containing this statement is attached as Exhibit 1.)

A fully documented discussion of the possibility of lung hazard will be found on pages 2 - 4 of the brochure entitled "Health Aspects of Fiberglass Materials". This is attached as Exhibit 2.

Supporting information is found in the following:

Exhibit 3 — Reprint of an article from INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE by Dr. Walter J. Siebert. Of special interest to you will be the concluding statement in Dr. Siebert's article, as follows:

"In submitting his best judgment, based on his professional interpretation of all facts assembled in the course of the investigation, the author finds that there is no silicosis, fibrosis, or dust hazard connected with working with Fiberglass, and that the manufacture, fabrication and application of Fiberglass products is attended by no unusual occupational hazard."

Exhibit 4 — Copy of joint BuShips-Bullded memorandum on the subject of possible health hazards in connection with the installation of Fiberglass insulation in ships.

Exhibit 5 — Pioneering Uses of Fiberglass Materials in Medicine. This brochure describes uses of Fiberglass materials in certain medical procedures and apparatus.

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- Exhibit 6 — Main reprint of letter from notes and correspondence section of JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION by Dr. Barney J. Hein.
- Exhibit 7 — Article entitled "Handling Characteristics of Fiberglass" from JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, December 1948.
- Exhibit 8 — Article by Dr. John Wilson on "Safe Use of Fiberglass in Industry" from the September 1948 issue of the MONTHLY REVIEW published by the Division of Industrial Hygiene & Safety Standards of the New York Department of Labor.
- Exhibit 9 — Transcript of Remarks on Health Aspects of Fiberglass Materials by W.C. Hazard, P.A. Industrial Hygiene Engineer (R), U.S.P.H.S. This is an excerpt from the Proceedings of the Rhode Island Industrial Health Institute held in Providence on May 19, 1943. Of special interest to you is the following statement contained in this transcript:

"Plant people who have read of silicosis may become alarmed at breathing air that has glass particles floating in it. They know sand goes into the making of glass, and they know sand dust may cause silicosis, but a combined silicate — and no silicate aside from asbestos, which has an entirely different composition, has been definitely proved to cause any specific disabling disease of the lungs. Furthermore, glass fibers large enough to be seen floating in the air will be too big to enter the small regions of the lungs."

We hope this information will be useful to you, and we will be glad to supply additional reprints of any of the exhibits if you desire them.

Sincerely yours,

Public Relations Director

Edward C. Ames
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