



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

January 18, 1968

05-412064



REFER TO:

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH
1014 BROADWAY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

513-6542679

684-2658

cc: Loring
Hewitt
note 7

Mr. Peter Kostic
Dewey and Almy Division
W. R. Grace Company
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kostic:

Enclosed are the results of the fiber counts made on samples collected at your plant in Libby, Montana. These counts were made at 430X magnification under phase contrast illumination using a method we developed for use in our epidemiological study of the asbestos products industry. An equivalence between this method and the impinger which we developed from asbestos study data leads us to believe that fiber concentrations of about 50 total fibers/cc or 30 fibers/cc greater than 5 μ are near the present TLV. As you can see these concentrations are exceeded by all but one sample and it appears likely that a hazardous asbestos exposure does exist.

In addition, our current TLV may well be too high and if the British TLV of 2 fibers/cc greater than 5 μ were applied, the dust concentrations are from 10 to 100 times in excess of the safe limit.

I have discussed this matter with our Salt Lake City field station and I am sure they would be happy to honor a request for assistance in developing a control program submitted via the Montana Department of Health. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremiah R. Lynch
Jeremiah R. Lynch

Asst. Chief, Environmental
Activities
Field Studies
Occupational Health Program

Enclosure

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Results of fiber counts on membrane filter general air samples collected at the Zonolite Division, W. R. Grace Co., Libby, Montana, on February 1, 1967.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Fibers/cc</u>	
	<u>Total Fibers</u>	<u>>5 μ fibers</u>
Second floor	280	110
	40	21
	93	71
	310	200
	140	50
Fifth floor	54	33
Sixth floor	300	210