PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
USG-537

R. T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.
230 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

CABLE ADDRESS
BILTVAN NEW YORK

F. E. HUTCHINS
MANAGER
SPECIALTIES DEPARTMENT

June 15, 1972

0146
0147

U. S. Gypsum Co.
101 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Att: John Palazzo, Buyer

Mr. Diefenderfer has requested that we send to you the following information about NYTAL. This has already been sent to Mr. K. Schmidt.

We believe, in the light of existing federal regulations concerned with occupational safety and health, that our NYTALdoes not contain fibers classified as asbestos.

In reference to the tremolite content of NYTAL, it has been determined that about one-third consists of the mineral tremolite. We believe, however, that the structural form of the tremolite to be found in our product is such that it does not fall into the category of asbestos, as that term is used in various regulations dealing with occupational safety and health. Whereas asbestos is described as a fibrous mineral silicate, the structural form of the tremolite found in the above product is characterized by a mixture of nodules, rods, plates and needles. The small fraction of tremolite found in our product in the needle form is not soft, threadlike and of high tensile strength, such as in the case of asbestos, but rather is brittle, fragile, and of low tensile strength.

At present, it is our belief that the existence of tremolite in our product does not constitute a mineral dust exposure hazard greater than that of non-asbestiform talc, for which the Threshold Limit Value has been established at 20 mppcf.

I trust this information will be helpful to you. If we can be of any further service, please contact us.

Very truly yours

R. T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.

Betty Tarnoff

Mrs. Betty Tarnoff

BT:jb

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The recommendations for use of our materials are based upon tests believed to be reliable. However we do not guarantee the results to be obtained