FILE NAME: Owens Illinois (OWILL)

DATE: 1956 June 12

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Intra Company Letter Exchange between OWILL and Edison Building RE Article about Inhaled Hydrous Calcium Dust

bc: Mr. W. J. Stewart
Mr. E. C. Shuman
Dr. C. F. Shook

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OWENS-ILLINOIS

GENERAL OFFICES (O) TOLEDO 1, OHIO

June 12, 195[illegible]

Mr. Ira I. Brought
Edison Building
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mr. Brought:

Attached is a reprint of an article entitled, "Effect of Inhaled Commercial Hydrous Calcium Silicate Dust on Animal Tissues," AMA Arch. Indus. Health, 12, 345-360, 1955, which you asked for on the phone this morning.

The Saranac experiments showed conclusively there was no silicosis hazard to Kaylo dust. This is important because silica flour and diatomaceous earth are two of the basic ingredients. In the finished product, however, there is no longer any free silica (the sand and diatomaceous earth being combined to form silicates)—and hence there is no danger of silicosis. The animals bore this out.

The small amount of asbestos that is used as a raw material in Kaylo is relatively unchanged in the finished product. Saranac found that the animals, if exposed for a prolonged period of time to high concentrations of Kaylo dust, could develop a mild asbestosis reaction.

The reaction was milder than what would result from breathing dust of the commercial product 85% Mag. Asbestos workers and applicators are exposed to higher concentrations of asbestos dust during their normal work than would result from handling Kaylo.

In addition to the animal experiments, a comprehensive preventive medical program has been in effect at Berlin, the present Kaylo plant, and formerly at Sayreville, ever since these plants were first set in operation. Complete annual physical examinations have been given to everyone working in these factories, once a year, including chest X-rays. The latter were read by local roentgenologists, and in addition were sent routinely to specialists at the Trudeau Foundation, who are recognized authorities in dust diseases. This program is still in effect.

No lung changes of any kind that could be attributed to an occupational exposure have been detected.

Similarly, the case rates for first-aid treatment of minor respiratory ailments have never been above "normal." Nor have sick absence rates for disabling respiratory illness been above average.

Hope this gives you the material you want.

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Hazard - Industrial Relations Division

July 16, 195[illegible]

Dr. L. F. Schwartz - Berlin -
cc: Mr. L. J. Beck - 9
Mr. C. H. Ingersoll - Berlin
Mr. O. W. Pfeifer - Berlin

Dear Harry:

My humblest apologies for not making my plant date more accurate. It was carelessness on my part, but I thought surely you would be in town the entire week. As usual, I worked up from Bridgeton and hit your plant on the third day.

My inspection revealed everything moving smoothly and I have no recommendations to make.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIVISION

Medical Director

F. L. Shook, M.D.
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