

LAKE ASBESTOS OF QUEBEC, LTD.

120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 5, N.Y.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

ASA-172

MINE AT BLACK LAKE
QUEBEC, CANADA

October 21, 1960

Re: 609

Mr. J. Nelson, Director
Department of Hygiene
3122 - 100 -
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Toxicity and Cancer Inducement
by Chrysotile Asbestos

I have had correspondence with Dr. Pinto concerning this subject in relation to the use of asbestos in plastic food containers and more recently the use of chrysotile asbestos in packings and gaskets used in food machinery. I have just run across the letter which you wrote to Mr. Simbault on May 25 concerning the toxic effects of chrysotile in relation to the W. H. Grace Company. I was in Europe at the time of this correspondence.

I am quite interested in your statement on the second page of your letter to Mr. Simbault dated May 25 which states, "Incidentally, Mr. Wilson refers to the toxicity of asbestos dust. Asbestos is not toxic; it does not cause systemic poisoning as may lead or arsenic. Inhalation of asbestos dust in large quantities for a long enough time may cause asbestosis, a type of fibrosis of the lung." Can you document your statement "Asbestos is not toxic"? If you can, you have solved my problem for I am in the process of trying to document this fact for two of our customers. Also involved here, which I would like to document, is evidence that chrysotile fiber does not induce cancer. Both of these subjects are, of course, related to the Food and Drug Administration acts on the subject.

By copy of this letter, I wish to advise Dr. Pinto that I have obtained from the J. American Medical Association, December 1956 issue, a copy of the article describing the Beck heart operation which makes use of the powdered

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chrysotile. Under separate cover, a copy of this article will be sent to Dr. Pinto and also a copy for you. I would appreciate it very much if Dr. Pinto would study this article and give his opinion as to its value and documenting the lack of toxicity and cancer inducement of chrysotile asbestos. I would also appreciate it if you could write to Dr. Bernard L. Braunman and ask him if the asbestos used was chrysotile since the article merely states "powdered asbestos." Since this article was written in 1956 covering 183 operations of this type, information should be available as to the long-term effects of the asbestos fiber as far as toxicity and cancer inducement is concerned.

Very truly yours,

H. A. Farwell
Manager, Technical Service

RAF/LH

CC - Dr. Sherman A. Pinto

BCC - Mr. Williams
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Brown
Mr. Jones
Mr. Smith, Jr.
Mr. Harrison
Mr. Green

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