PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
CSR - 825

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30th January, 1979

Dr. J.P. Leineweber,
Technical Director,
Health, Safety and
Environment Department,
Johns-Manville Sales Corporation,
Ken-Caryl Ranch,
DENVER COLORADO 80217
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Leineweber,

Thank you for your letter of 18 January, 1979, concerning Wittenoom. As you surmised, the Chemical Week report of 200 mesothelioma cases in former residents is incorrect.

The most recent reliable information that we have is contained in the attached paper by Hobbs et al, presented at the 2nd Australian Pneumoconiosis Conference in Sydney in February last year. (Also attached is a copy of the paper as published in the Proceedings together with relevant discussion extracts.) Professor Hobb's epidemiological study is continuing, but we do not have access to any more recent results. The study is, of course, mainly concerned with ex-employees at Wittenoom, rather than residents, but a few cases of mesothelioma (seven implied in the Proceedings version of Hobb's paper) had been observed in either residents or non-employees as at February 1978.

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3C(ii)a
3C.(iii)a

We are not aware of any reliable estimates of likely exposure levels to residents at the time the mine was operating. We understand that Western Australian health authorities have recently taken measurements of asbestos dust levels at Wittenoom, but the results have not been made public.

Some local press cuttings relating to the closure of the town are attached for interest.

I should be interested to know what has happened to Dr. Paul Kotin who was helpful to us in environment and health matters. I should also be pleased to have a copy of Johns-Manville's annual report when published.

Yours sincerely,

M.G. King
Deputy General Manager

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