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8/25/64

Joseph Kelley President
Zonolite Division
W.R. Grace & Company
135 So. LaSalle Street
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

In 1959 an x-ray survey of all Zonolite employees at Libby was carried out under Wm. Little, M.D., (Radiologist), of Kallispell, Montana, and James Cairns, M.D., of Libby. An unusually high incidence, (approximately 1/3), of basilar fibrosis was found in this series.

This survey was repeated this year, after a meeting of the local doctors and Libby Zonolite administration. At this meeting, the consensus of local medical opinion was that an important increased incidence of chronic respiratory disease existed in Zonolite employees who had prolonged exposure to dust.

As a result of this, I suggested and offered to carry out studies of lung function by respiratory capacity measurements, to be compared with lung pathology as measured by the x-ray survey.

The x-ray summary has been completed and films read by Dr. Little, including comparison with the films of 1959. Total and timed respiratory capacity studies have been completed under my supervision and % standards computed on the employees. I have begun analysis of results and correlation with x-ray findings.

In my opinion the analysis of data so far obtained should be carried out to a stage of reasonable clinical completeness because preliminary analysis shows distinct and important change in respiratory function and pathology.

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So far, I have conducted the above function studies in spare time, without charge to the company. I intend to continue the analysis and will be happy to send you the data which I have obtained and results of my analysis of the same. You perhaps have men in the research division qualified and interested in completing the study.

If not however, I am qualified by training and past research experience to carry out an analysis of the data we have from a standpoint of clinical importance and with reasonable completeness and would be interested in doing it. I would need however to leave practice and spend from two to four weeks in a medical center such as Chicago with library, consultation facilities, etc. For this I would need reimbursement for expenses including income loss for the time involved. I could probably take the time, this fall.

Please let me know whether you think Zeolite Division of Grace Company would be interested in pursuing this further. There are many facets to this inhalation problem but this letter is long enough already. Sorry I did not get to see you on your last visit here. My contacts with you and the other members of the company have always been most pleasurable.

Sincerely yours,

Woodie

WN/ph - Woodrow Nelson, M.D.