

Johnson & Johnson
BABY PRODUCTS COMPANY

RARITAN, N.J. 08869

June 27, 1977

SUBJECT: Status Report - Defense of Talc Safety

TO: Mr. D. D. Johnston

Since our report of April 28, the talc scene has been comparatively quiet and the following represent current status of ongoing activities:

I. J & J Talc Data Generation

1. The Battelle in-vitro lung macrophage pilot study is still progressing and the investigator is hopeful of developing dose response information.
2. CTFA has initiated a Round Robin retest of the major powder brands because of inter-laboratory discrepancies. Contrary to prior agreement, the Mt. Sinai laboratory has refused to apply the CTFA methodology.

II. FDA/OTC Panel - Talc Reviews

There have been no announcements of further reviews for talc by the Panels.

III. Talc Scientific Publications

Rebuttals to the Langer "Consumer Talcum Products" paper by Hildick-Smith and J. Krause of Colorado School of Mines were published as letters-to-the-editor in the June mailing of the journal.

IV. Non-J&J Talc Studies

1. Lovelace Foundation

This study, which is sponsored by the FDA, reported that after 9 months of a very high inhalation exposure, no adverse pathology has been observed in the autopsied hamsters.

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2. NIOSH Vermont Talc Workers

To date, we still have not received NIOSH notification that their final report of the Mortality Study is ready for issuance and discussion.

The Environmental report has been presented at an industrial hygiene conference. Findings were positive and the NIOSH technique for fiber examination was declared unsuitable for talcs.

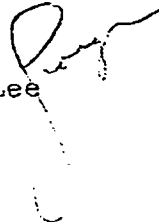
Harvard has not reported on the Morbidity study.

3. OSHA-Vanderbilt Industrial Talcs

At the instigation of Nader's Health Research Group, OSHA has withdrawn its Field Memorandum definition for fibrous particles which had formerly allowed the Vanderbilt Co. to sell its industrial talc without an asbestos labelling. Then as a result of Vanderbilt pressure, OSHA commissioned the National Bureau of Standards to analyze commercial talcs using OSHA/NIOSH methods and to recommend a definition of asbestos. Because NBS has declared that the official OSHA method cannot be used to identify asbestos, a workshop has been called by NBS to discuss definition and measurement methods for asbestos (July 18-20/77).

V. BPC Product Strategy

1. Product testing is still underway with PEG-treated JBP which have aged. Research 449-testing will also be carried out with PEG-treated demicronized talc.
2. Package Engineering is progressing towards a fall product test with the "living hinge cap" which is a child resistant cap. This is still the preferred cap design for safety and greatest protection against contamination.

George Lee 

/by
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