FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

DATE: 1972 Aug 2

DOC#: TALC436

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Fibrous Talc & Health

Research & Engineering Center
August 2, 1972

cc: F. J. Salow
G. Wright
Confidential
1/6/72

W. L. VanDerbeek - Denver

FIBROUS TALC - HEALTH

Yesterday I received a call from Dr. Sid Lauren, a former Johns-Manville Research Center Section Chief, who is currently Director of the Central R&D Department of the Coating Research Group, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio. This organization is sponsored by 25 industrial paint manufacturers.

The substance of Sid's call was related to the asbestos health scare publicity since a standard filler used in paints is fibrous talc. One of the better known varieties of filler is known as asbestine which is a fine tremolitic talc material. Apparently the sponsoring paint manufacturers are very concerned about the recent government regulations on asbestos and Sid was calling to determine if we had any knowledge on the toxicity of tremolite. I told him that I was not aware of any major medical or animal studies on this variety of asbestos but that I was sure that it would have some fibrotic influence on the lungs if large quantities were inhaled over a long period of time. However, I added that with proper environmental control in the manufacturing plants I was sure it could be handled safely. Lauren stated the he would be checking with Dr. Selikoff to determine if asbestine as a form of tremolite was a hazard and if any medical information was available.

I call this to your attention for the purpose of suggesting that some positive constructive program would appear to be in order relative to our Grantham Talc customers. During his visit Norm Scheffel and I touched on this matter and we both are in agreement that a carefully considered program be instituted to determine those of our talc customers who might require assistance and recommendations in handling our Grantham Talc from a dust control standpoint. The Asbestos Fiber Division and the Celite Division and the Environmental Engineering group could all provide useful thoughts and services which could be used in overcoming future marketing and sales problems for our Grantham products.

W. C. STREIB

CRMC-HT-TALC-000046

WCS:cs

cc: F. L. Pundsack - Denver
S. Speil
P. A. Martinson
Norm Scheffel

8017 0014 AC 150