

FILE NAME: RT Vanderbilt (RTV)

DATE: 1971 July

DOC#: RTV147

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Chemical Week Magazine Article - Asbestos in the Boudoir with Cover Letter to Desert Minerals, Inc.

TO Desert Minerals, Inc.

DATE July 26, 1971

Attn: Tom Remmers

SUBJECT Guilty until proven innocent by "De-gooders, Inc."

Tremolite & Anthophyllite Asbestos fibers found in Talc.

Dear Tom:

Attached is sheet article taken from the July 14th issue of the Chemical Week magazine.

Would this be found in any of our grades? If not perhaps we have a selling point.

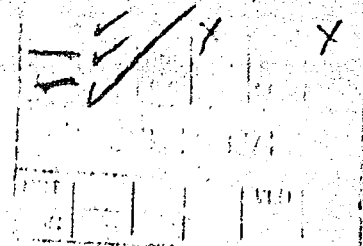
July 14th Chemical Week
Asbestos in the boudoir

As much as 25% asbestos content was found in samples of two leading brands of talcum powder, according to New York City's Environmental Protection Administrator, Jerome Kretchmer.

And at the city's request, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will do more testing and analysis, starting with an examination of the test data obtained by electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction under the direction of Dr. Irving Selikoff at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Selikoff reports finding 5-25% concentrations of tremolite and anthophyllite asbestos fibers, in particles under 5 microns in diameter.

Kretchmer notes that his agency is in no position to provide evidence that this level of exposure contributes to disease in later life. But he calls on FDA to "minimize all exposures unless they can be demonstrated conclusively to be harmless." It is unlikely that the government will take any immediate action against talcum powders. One city spokesman says asbestos can be screened from talc in the manufacturing process.

Johnson & Johnson, (New Brunswick, N.J.), a leading talcum powder manufacturer, states that its tests reveal no asbestos fiber in its talc products.



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