

FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: April 2, 1964

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1964 Letter to Mr. Kelley from C.A. Pratt regarding vermiculite dust health hazard.

C. A. PRATT
VICE PRESIDENT

April 2, 1964

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Western Mineral
Products Company



1. NELSON HIGHWAY • MINNEAPOLIS 22, MINNESOTA

LIBERTY 5-0481

Mr. J. A. Kelly, General Manager
Zonolite Division
W. R. Grace Company
135 South LaSalle Street
Chicago 3, Illinois

Re: Vermiculite dust health hazard

Dear Joe:

You will find enclosed a copy of a letter from Dr. W. E. Park from our Minneapolis Division of Public Health. You will recall he has corresponded with us previously regarding the hazard of vermiculite dust. He would now like additional information from Zonolite as to work that may have progressed since Ed Lovick's letter of June 14, 1961. You will recall our clearing this subject with you previous to giving Mr. Lovick's letter to Dr. Park.

The death Dr. Park refers to is Dennis Cleary, who was an employee of B. F. Nelson Company, and who has been awarded a complete disability claim by Workmans Compensation based upon his lung condition.

It's my understanding that the doctor that treated Mr. Cleary is now treating one of our employees and has instructed him to leave our employ for health reasons; so you see, this subject of inhaling too much vermiculite dust continues to be a serious matter, particularly relating to employees who have worked for us for a long period of time and previous to the considerable effort to bring dust under proper control.

I am sending Ed Lovick a copy of Dr. Park's letter. This obviously requires a response. Will you see that we do receive an answer that can be forwarded to Dr. Park.

Yours very truly,

C. A. Pratt
C. A. Pratt

CAP:mr

Enc.

CC: Mr. Ed Lovick

Mr. C. A. Pratt

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April 9, 1964

We feel we have made progress on the dust problem locally, both in our milling operation which affects our people, and in the concentrates which are shipped out. We have a dedusting unit at our loading station which operates when our material is being loaded. A combination of there being fewer fines in our concentrates because of milling changes and removal of dust when the product is shipped, which formerly went into the car, should result in a cleaner product to our customers.

Very truly yours

ZONOLITE DIVISION
W. R. GRACE & CO.

By:

E. D. Lovick

EDL/jbg

c.c. J. A. Kelley