RPM

INTER-ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

S-51

FROM TOM SULLIVAN

Always provide address to which reply is to be sent

TO JULIUS NEMETH

DATE DECEMBER 6, 1977 SUBJECT

Please use a separate sheet for each subject treated

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BOND-326

JULIUS --

UNDOUBTEDLY, YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THE ATTACHED.

-- TOM

Vanderbilt Says 2-Year Medical Study of Its Talc Tremolite Indicates No Asbestos Hazard

Norwalk, Conn., Nov. 30 — Current animal studies on hamsters by Dr. W. E. Smith and associates at the Health Research Institute of Fairleigh Dickinson University indicate no tumors related to intrapleural injection of tremolite particles isolated from talc mined by the R. T. Vanderbilt's Gouverneur Talc Company in upstate New York, the company reported today.

Previous work at the university had established the hamster as a suitable animal model to demonstrate effects of exposure of man to various fibrous mineral particles. The intrapleural injections are a method to test for induction of mesothelioma, a cancer of tissues surrounding the lungs which is commonly associated with exposure to true asbestos.

BECAUSE of accusations that Gouverneur talcs contained large amounts of tremolite, which Vanderbilt said OSHA mistakenly considers to be asbestos, the company commissioned the Health Research Institute to study the tremolite portion of its talc products.

The current animal studies with hamsters have been in progress for 600 days. The maximum normal lifespan for this strain of hamsters is about 700 days. To date, Vanderbilt reported, not one single case of mesothelioma has been found among the test hamsters injected with tremolite at Fairleigh Dickinson. These results, the company added, were not unexpected, in view of prior hamster studies at the university in which injections of New York State talc containing 50 per cent tremolite produced no mesotheliomas over the full two-year lifespan of the test animals. Both studies, the company said, confirm what Vanderbilt believes to be true—that its talcs do not constitute an asbestos hazard.

AS PART of its overall program for employe health, the R. T. Vanderbilt Company has engaged a Bethesda, Md., consulting firm in occupational medicine to conduct an in-depth study of the health records of all past and present employes who have worked at Vanderbilt's Gouverneur, N.Y., talc operations. The results of this study, when completed, will serve as a guide for Vanderbilt's continuing program of reducing employe health risks, including dust control improvement, the company said.

Degussa Pigments Names Tech Service Manager

Teterboro, N.J., Dec. 1 — Appointment of Harold D. Stanley to the position of technical service manager has been announced here by Degussa Corporation-Pigments.

Responsible for all technical assistance offered to Pigments Division customers, Stanley will supervise technical service activities on behalf of the company's fumed silica, as well as a variety of specialty chemicals used in dozens of industries.

Stanley has B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemistry from DePaul University, Chicago, and Lehigh University, Bethlehem, respectively. His professional affiliations include membership in the Electron Microscopy Society of America, the Fine Particle Society, and the National Paint and Coatings Association.

He previously was assistant director of technical service for the MPM Division of Pfizer, Inc.

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