FILE NAME: Saranac (SAR)

DATE: 1948 Mar 15

DOC#: SAR117

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Met Life Insurance Co. from J.P. Woodard Concerned about Consequences of not Receiving the Saranac Reports

March 15, 1948

Dr. A. J. Lanza
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
One Madison Avenue
New York 10, New York

NOTED
V. B.

Dear Tony:

On February 25 I wrote to Dr. Worwald and sent him our contribution for the current year.

As you know, ever since early last fall, we have been given rather encouraging promises by Saranac as to when the reports of the asbestos and diatomaceous earth studies would be in final form. To date, we have not received them. There is considerable agitation, both in Canada and on the West Coast, and I am continually receiving urgent letters asking when the information can be expected.

I can appreciate the fact that Saranac has a big load to carry, and that they have been hurt by Dr. Gardner's death and by the recent departure of Mr. Bonditch. With all of this, however, our own position is becoming closer and closer to a crisis and I am quite disturbed over the possibility that we may get hit with some bad situations before we have the information that we hope these studies will disclose.

Heretofore, Dr. Worwald has given me some promises as to when the studies will be completed, each time a month or six weeks ahead. When he answered my letter of February 25, he says a major effort is being placed on the completion of the work on diatomaceous earth and asbestos and that "both of these reports are in process of preparation." He gives no date, and perhaps he can't do so.

This letter to you should not be interpreted as being critical of Saranac, for I think they have done and are doing a real job, but it is to say that I have about "run out of gas" in answering our own people as to when we may expect the information, and I am just wondering if in your next letter to Dr. Worwald, you could try to push this along and perhaps get a more accurate estimate of when we can expect these data.

I am sending you attached a letter that I have written to Dr. Worwald. I hope he does not think I am too insistent, for I do not intend to be, but I am getting to feel frightened about the possibilities if we don't get the benefit of this information soon.

Yours sincerely,

J. P. Maxfield

Enclosure

bc: Vandiver Brown