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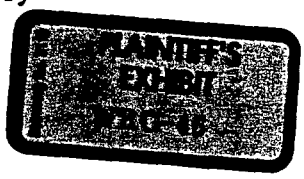
TO: R. M. Vining

DATE: July 8, 1969

FROM: H. A. Brown

SUBJECT: Dust Control At Libby

cc: C. F. Dugan
Peter Kostic
John F. Murphy
R. E. Schneider
R. W. Sterrett

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On July 3rd, I received a phone call from Dr. Crowley of the United States Public Health Service located in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is responsible for all ecological studies for the Department of Health. He advised me that he had been informed by one of their Surgeon Generals that we not only had a plant problem at our Libby operation but may also have a community problem. He informed me that he had been in touch with Benjamin Wake, Industrial Hygienist from the State of Montana, who had made an environmental analysis at Libby some time in the past. He said he had understood from Mr. Wake that steps were being taken to correct the problem areas identified at that time and had thought the situation had improved until he was just recently informed by one of the Surgeon Generals.

Dr. Crowley thought it was important for us to get together to review the situation and he would like to do this at Libby. He also said that he had learned that Dr. Irving Selikoff had become interested in the Libby problem. Dr. Selikoff is the doctor in New Jersey who has been making extensive studies regarding the affect of asbestos fibers for a number of years.

Dr. Crowley said that he needed to submit a report the day of his call stating that he had been in touch with us and we would be arranging a meeting. He also suggested that if I wished, I could call Hugh Jackson, Director of Industrial Relations for Johns Mannville to learn more about how they have worked together with the Public Health Service and been participants in their studies. He thought we should work with them in the same manner.

Per our discussions following this phone call, we decided that we should proceed to make arrangements with Dr. Crowley to work with them. On this date, I made arrangements with Dr. Crowley to meet him and Benjamin Wake in Libby the week of August 25. The others who will be present are Dick Schneider, Peter Kostic and Floyd Stewart.

In reviewing the files, I found a report by J. R. Lynch, Industrial Hygienist of the United States Public Health Service who is also located in Cincinnati, Ohio. This report is based upon an environmental analysis made by Mr. Lynch on June 25 and 26, 1968. In addition, Mr. Lynch wrote a letter to Earl Lovick on July 10 suggesting that we

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cooperate in a study with his Department. This study would include securing information on all the active and inactive employees who worked at Libby for at least one month. As you know, this suggestion was not accepted at that time. I suspect that our meeting with Dr. Crowley will result in a need to include in the study the type information requested by Mr. Lynch.

It is my feeling that we should be prepared to do this and cooperate in any way possible with the Public Health Service. Chuck Dugan concurs with this opinion at this point in time.

H. A. BROWN

HAB/im