

W. R. GRACE & CO.
RESEARCH DIVISION

Washington Research Center, Clarksville, Maryland

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March 18, 1963

Mr. Gerald Teplitzky
W. R. Grace & Co.
Dewey and Almy Chemical Division
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge 40, Massachusetts

Re: Evaluation of Frank Ware's
Phosphate Rock Invention

Dear Jerry:

Your subject note of March 13th transmitted copies of Ware's two patent applications (with appended claims), several pieces of coated ply-wood, and a small piece of plaster composition. Comments on the possible worth to Grace of Ware's development were requested.

If I read Ware's applications correctly, he would like to own the use of naturally occurring phosphate rock when included in fire retardant plasters and other coatings, or when employed to control fire propagation in grass, brush, and the like.

The application entitled "A FIRE RETARDING COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF USING PHOSPHATE ROCK AND SHALE" broadly claims "a fire retarding composition consisting essentially of a naturally-occurring phosphate rock and shale from phosphoria formations and deposits - - -". Subsequent claims are limited by the inclusion of an organic adhesive. The use of finely ground phosphate rock as a fertilizer material is old in the art. I question whether Ware will be able to obtain a patent on the use of this material alone or in conjunction with an organic adhesive, for its fire retardant benefit.

The application entitled "FIRE RESISTANT CEMENTITIOUS PLASTER COMPOSITION" is directed to a method of preparing fire resistant cementitious plaster compositions by adding thereto effective amounts of a naturally occurring phosphate rock and shale. Broadly, Ware seeks to own various plaster compositions containing naturally occurring phosphate rock and shale. Subsequent claims cover compositions comprising exfoliated vermiculite (Zonolite) and other binders, both organic and inorganic. If this patent issues, and the inclusion of phosphate rock in plaster can be demonstrated to be efficacious, this patent could be of interest to Grace.

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