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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Internal J-M Memo RE Response to a letter from a Mrs. Barnes Stating They Cannot Determine How Much Asbestos that Her Children were Exposed to



Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: E. M. Fenner

Date: January 4, 1980

From: W. B. Reitze

Copies: C. Linke

Subject: BARNES LETTER

I believe this is in your territory, but I would like to make a few comments about the request for information from Mrs. Barnes.

The first point that I believe we should stress is that, to the best of our knowledge, we have no way of determining who supplied the material that her children used back in the late 1960s and, furthermore, we have no way of determining whether this material actually did contain asbestos. Neither do we have any way of determining how much asbestos was contained in the material. The percentage could have gone from zero to 100%. Furthermore, we do not know how the school mixed this material, whether an effort was made to suppress the dust by prewetting and/or isolation, or whether the dust was allowed to float free. The frequency of this operation is also unknown, and this could have a direct bearing upon any health effects. This could be a once per year project or it could have been more often.

With all the above unknowns, it is almost impossible to assign health risks to this particular type of exposure. If asbestos was used, it is obvious that it is an improper use of the material. With the limited data available to us at this point in time, it is impossible to assess a health risk.

W. B. Reitze

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