



MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City (University of New York)

FIFTH AVENUE AND 100TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029

Department of Community Medicine

RAF-7/6

May 10, 1971

Assistant Commissioner Harold Romer
New York City Department of Air Resources
51 Astor Place
New York, New York 10003



Dear Commissioner Romer:

I have completed a preliminary examination of the materials forwarded to our laboratory for mineralogical analysis. The results are as follows:

- (1) Examination of the rubber balloons indicates that a fine white powder coats their interior. This powder has been removed, in part, with water and the inorganic residues examined by means of electron microscopy (both transmission microscopy and electron diffraction). The powder is made up of fibrous talc, that is talc made of both platy trio talc and associated amphibole asbestos fibers. The amphibole type is primarily tremolite, with some scattered anthophyllite. In one case chrysotile asbestos was also detected as being present. The amount of these latter two asbestos minerals is extremely small. (See enclosed EM plates).
- (2) Examination of the two body powder tales indicates that they both contain amounts of fibrous minerals. Examination by light microscopy and x-ray diffraction indicates that tremolite and some anthophyllite asbestos makeup the fibrous components. The amount of fibers present in these samples as determined by light microscopy range from 5 to 25 percent. Examination of these samples by electron microscopy indicates many of the fibers exist in the -5 micron size range.

Please note that these results are preliminary in nature and that some further investigations are warranted to delineate whether or not a health hazard exists with these materials. It is of interest to note that some preliminary observations do suggest a hazard exists (March, 1971, see enclosed). Therefore, these materials should be considered until the problem is clarified.

Very truly yours,

Arthur H. Hays

(17)
rec'd OFF-7
s.d.

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letter + memo
give release
received
to: [illegible]
4/21/71





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Department of Community Medicine

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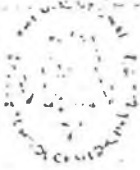
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Please note that these results are preliminary in nature and that some further investigations are warranted to delineate whether or not a health hazard exists with these materials. It is of interest to note that some information do suggest a hazard exists (March, 1971, see enclosed). These materials should be considered until the problem is clarified.

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[Signature]

(11)
rec'd OPT-7
s.d.



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- (2) Examination of the two body powder talcs indicates that they both contain amounts of fibrous minerals. Examination by light microscopy and x-ray diffraction indicates that tremolite and some anthophyllite asbestos make up the fibrous components. The amount of fibers present in these samples as determined by light microscopy ranges from 5 to 25 percent. Examination of these samples by electron microscopy indicates many of the fibers exist in the 0.5 micron size range.

Please note that these results are preliminary in nature and that some further investigations are warranted to delineate whether or not a health hazard exists with these materials. It is of interest to note that some preliminary observations do suggest a hazard exists (March, 1971, see enclosed report). Such materials should be considered until the problem is clarified.

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Please note that these results are preliminary in nature and that some further investigations are warranted to delineate whether or not a health hazard exists with these materials. It is of interest to note that some of the observations do suggest a hazard exists (Moran, 1971, see enclosed paper). Such materials should be considered until the problem is clarified.

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