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August 24, 1972

Talc/Asbestos
SHOWER TO SHOWER Talc

Dr. R. A. Fuller

Dr. Weissler, Director, Division of Cosmetics, FDA, called us this afternoon to report that they had submitted a sample of SHOWER TO SHOWER previously examined by Dr. Lewin to the Sperry Rand scanning electron microscope facility this afternoon.

The report from Sperry Rand was that asbestos fibers could be detected in the sample. Dr. Weissler said that he has in front of him photographs of 6 fields at 12,000X magnification showing fibers with length to width ratios of 10-to-1 to 50-to-1, one of them appearing on top of a talc plate. He estimated that their diameter is less than .05 micron (about 1/10 of an inch in his photograph).

I asked Dr. Weissler if the Sperry Rand facility handles minerals. He said yes, they do a lot of work with chrysotile. I asked him, "Have they reported to you the normal background contamination in their samples. As you recall, this was the problem in Mt. Sinai's laboratories." He said no; however, he feels that the man who did the work is conservative and would not have reported chrysotile unless he was sure. I asked him if he has assured himself that the fibers were not tremolite which could be present in trace amounts. He said the fibers are characteristic of chrysotile and not tremolite.

I told Dr. Weissler that this information is completely at variance with the information we have from McCrone and from our laboratories. I asked him if it is possible for our experts to talk with Sperry Rand to resolve this question. He did not encourage this approach and said that he has the photographs in his office.

I told him that we will be in touch with him as soon as possible, either tomorrow or early next week. He said he will be available the first 3 days of next week but he may not be available after that.

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I asked him if he has heard from Dr. Lewin. He said, "Nothing definite, but he may have reported on optical microscopy; however, you know these fibers cannot be seen by optical microscopy."

W. Nashed

wn/cw

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