PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BIR-414

November 10, 1961

Prof. William Dennen
Department of Geology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Bill:

We have a problem of analysis and wonder if you could give us some advice on it. In a mixture of asphalt, asbestos, and rhyolite dust, we need to know by test method (preferably rapid) the percentage of asbestos present to within ±½%. The amount of asbestos will be about 5% of the total.

Mechanical separation of the asbestos fibers from the rhyolite dust seems impossible. A chemical analysis for magnesium might do it, but it is a slow, laborious process.

It occurred to us that a spectroscopic method might be applicable. We are, however, very ignorant of the techniques and instruments which are used. Could you advise us if this is the correct approach and what the equipment costs might be, or if some other method would be more promising?

Very truly yours,

BUILDING MATERIALS DIVISION

Leonard W. Weaver
Asst. Product Development Manager

LWW/rp