FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: August 11, 1961

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1961 Letter to Zonolite Company from Western Mineral Products Company regarding June 14th letter (WRG207).

Western Mineral Products Company

4725 OLSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
MINNEAPOLIS 22, MINNESOTA

ZONOLITE INSULATING FILL • CONCRETE AGGREGATE • PLASTER AGGREGATE • PLASTER FINISH AGGREGATE • ACOUSTICAL PLAST

C. A. PRATT
VICE PRESIDENT

August 11, 1961

Mr. E.D. Lovick
Zonolite Company
P.O. Box 607
Libby, Montana

Dear Earl:

Your letter of June 14th, concerning the dust problem at the mine, is most informative and we sincerely appreciate your sharing this information with us in such complete detail.

We are particularily appreciative of the effort you are making at the mine to reduce the dust content of the ore. If an effective improvement can be made at the mine, in reducing the asbestos dust, this will of course benefit every plant that receives the ore and will minimize the hazard to hundreds of employees in the various plants.

It would interest you to know that we have been requiring new men coming in to our employ to have a physical examination, including chest x-rays, before they start to work for us. This has been in effect now for several years in Minneapolis. We have further encouraged our employees to have frequent x-rays taken at the mobile x-ray unit, sponsored by the T.B. Association, so we are gaining some history here concerning exposure to vermiculite dust.

We will now share the information from your letter with our insurance carrier and ask them to again bring their equipment into our plants and check the quantity and kind of dust. We have been making respirators available to our plant employees for some time but not demanding that they be worn. We will now tighten down on the matter of employees handling ore wearing respirators.

Thanks again for your help. I'm sure none of us want to contribute to a health problem for any employee.

Sincerely,

WESTERN MINERAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

C.A. Pratt
Vice President

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