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Dr. Francis C. Frary
Aluminum Research Laboratories
Aluminum Company of America
Post Office Box 772
New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Frary:

I am very grateful to you for checking the designation of the various aluminas with which we have worked. The information comes in the nick of time.

We are still floundering around with our guinea pig epidemic which has thus far killed over a thousand of our animals. As soon as it is over we shall take stock of the situation and make arrangements for repeating parts of the tests that may be too seriously involved. In spite of our most strenuous efforts the epidemic rolled on like a prairie fire and there seemed to be little that we could do to stop it.

We will be able to learn a good deal from the animals that have been killed but, of course, it will be necessary to make replacements for the longer time observations.

I have just this morning looked over a group of guinea pigs injected with the fused silica that you sent me. Only one has survived more than 2 1/2 months. Up to this time it would appear that we are dealing with an active irritant which is capable of producing a change that would presumably result in silicotic fibrosis. I would therefore regard it with real suspicion although I think that collection of air-borne samples of the dust would be in order so that one might establish the size and dispersion of this silica and determine whether it is in such a state that it could be inhaled.

Very truly yours,

Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

LUG:RH