



Inter Office

Personnel and Organization Staff

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Mr. J. D. Woods, Supervisor
Personnel Services and Security
Saline Plant

cc R. P. Carzoli
T. L. Kopke
G. O. Lease, M.D.
J. P. McCallum
L. H. Roslinski, Ph.D.
J. Stirling

Subject: Talc Concentrations in Compounding Room

On February 20 and March 6, 1974 we sampled the compounding room operator to assess concentrations of talc as fibers and total dust. On December 21, 1973 an asbestos-free talc (Beaverwhite 200--Cyprus Mines Corporation) replaced Desert 51 talc (an asbestos contaminated talc) in production operations. The survey was to determine if Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements imposed on this area based on past surveys⁽¹⁾ could be lifted due to the change of talc.

Conclusions

1. Concentration of total talc exceeds any applicable OSHA standard. Operator should always wear a Company approved respirator while working in compounding room.
2. It is a wise preventive measure to keep those OSHA requirements imposed on the compounding room by previous surveys⁽¹⁾. Concentration of talc fibers found and evidence of similarity of health consequences between talc (2.3) and asbestos exposures, lead us to this conclusion.

Discussion

On December 21, 1973 production began using Beaverwhite 200 instead of Desert 51 talc in the compounding room operation. The change was to eliminate asbestos from production operations. It was hoped that this revision would out-date OSHA requirements imposed on compounding operations when an asbestos contaminated talc (Desert 51) was in use. This survey was to evaluate concentrations of Beaverwhite (dust and fibers) to which the compounding room operator is exposed.

Concurrently with environmental samples, bulk Beaverwhite samples were sent to two different laboratories for fiber content analysis.

The environmental samples taken for "fiber determination" comprise just one cycle of the operation. The sample for "total dust" represents a much longer period. We feel that these samples are representative of conditions to which the operator sampled is exposed.

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EXHIBIT
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