

FILE NAME: WR Grace (WRG)

DATE: July 31, 1985

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1985 Memo to RW Samuels regarding enclosed newspaper article on 42nd Street Library

JUL 31 1985

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Memorandum to Mr. R. W. Samuels

Re the attached, are we in danger?

J. P. G., Jr.
(Dictated but not read)

attachment

cc: Mr. C. N. Graf

*Get in
W.R.G. Hall
City Union
Library
7/31/85*

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

380

ALL-STATE LEGAL SUPPLY CO.

W.R. GRACE 116667

City U.'s 42d St. Library Shut To Clean Up Asbestos Fibers

By KIRKALL J. WILLS

The City University of New York has closed its graduate library in the basement of the V. R. Grace Building on West 42d Street because of asbestos contamination, university officials said yesterday.

The associate provost of the school, Geoffrey Marshall, said the university closed the library Friday, after a company it had hired reported that asbestos fibers had been discovered in air samples.

Although the samples were below the level permitted by Federal standards, Mr. Marshall said, the university was closing the library to clean it and perform more tests.

The samples were taken June 24, four days after workers installing air conditioning in the ceiling had broken through insulation and fireproofing materials, spreading a white dust throughout the library.

Several university employees criticized the sampling techniques and said the asbestos levels might have been higher at the time of contamination.

"There is much passion and not enough clear thought right now," Mr. Marshall said. He said the university would not know how serious the contamination was until further tests were

conducted.

Minute amounts of asbestos fibers, if inhaled, have been found to cause cancer and other disorders, but the symptoms often do not become evident for years after exposure.

Milton Kauffman, a vice president of Swig, Weller & Arrow, which manages the Grace Building, said he could not comment about whether air circulated from the basement throughout the building or whether samples had been taken in any other parts of the building. The university leases the space in the basement of the building, at 1114 Avenue of the Americas. It is adjacent to the university Graduate Center, at 25 West 42d Street.

Asbestos levels of 0.1 fibers a cubic centimeter were found in air samples taken June 24 by Clayton Environmental Consultants Inc. The standards of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration permit exposure to 2 fibers a cubic centimeter in eight hours. There is no way to determine what the concentration of asbestos was at the time of the contamination. Air samples were not ordered until staff workers had expressed concern they had been exposed to asbestos.