Because I want to handle this with Asbestos and information Dr. Lewis to follow. EWS 1/27

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GHQ
January 24, 1958

E. R. Williams, Research

Finished Product Investigation

In our conversation yesterday I asked if it would be possible for your organization to investigate some of our finished products. We are particularly interested in the free silica content of those finished products which have free silica in the form of quartz or crystobalite as a raw material, or as an impurity in the raw material. There is a belief that the original free silica in our asbestos-cement-silica products or certain insulating materials is converted in the manufacturing process so that the end product contains combined and not free silica.

When dust, which has settled on beams and rafters in our various plants, is analyzed in connection with routine Industrial Hygiene surveys we have found free silica when we would expect none. Physical examinations and chest x-rays of some employees have uncovered occupational pulmonary disease where it was not expected. Typical examples of these operations would be the saw and lathe operators in Transite pipe, the punch press operators in rigid shingles, or finishing and packaging of magnesia products. In addition, we suspect that silica occurring as an impurity in some clays used at Zelienople may be converted in the ovens to crystobalite. This, of course, would affect the employees who saw and package the brick.

Could you please advise if such an investigation could be undertaken, and if so, what procedures are necessary to initiate it?

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.