July 15, 1959

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G. B. BROWN
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J. J. McCarty

Determination of Free Silica in
Various Johns-Manville Products
Research Report No. 400-7-13 (Confidential)

Attached is a copy of the above Research Report.

Your attention is called to the results shown on Page 3 which indicate that there are substantial percentages of crystobalite in each of our types of fire brick products.

Crystobalite has been identified as the critical element in our diatomaceous earth exposures. The U. S. Public Health Service on the basis of their extensive research and study of diatomaceous earth pneumoconiosis have recommended that the threshold limit for materials containing 5% or more of crystobalite be established at 5 million particles per cubic foot.

Applying this criteria to the Zelienople situation, it would mean that for adequate health control all work environments in which dusts from fired brick or grogs is encountered should be controlled to a contamination level of not more than 5 M.P.P.C.F.

Since the relationship of a crystobalite pneumoconiosis to tuberculosis is not yet entirely understood, the periodic health examinations at Zelienople Plant should include additional emphasis on TB diagnosis and control.

H. M. Jackson

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