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RECEIVED
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E. R. WILLIAMS

GHQ
October 10, 1958

A. B. Cummins, Research Center

Finished Product Investigation

Several months ago, I asked if it would be possible to undertake a project to determine the amount of free silica of our finished products. Could you please advise me if any progress has been made on this program?

R. B. Frandsen, the Industrial Hygienist at our Waukegan Plant, has been using the following screening method to determine the presence or absence of free silica in various dry dust samples. He places an opaque disc in the substage condenser of his microscope and the other in the eye piece. The only particles which come through the polarized light are presumed to be silica particles. He states that they appear like diamond chips on a piece of blue velvet. In mixed dusts there are hazy particles which do not reflect light in the same way, and these are assumed to be particles of combined silica. They have checked their methods with samples of pure silica and also mixed dusts composed of asbestos silica and cement. Would you care to comment on the validity of their impressions?

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

cc: E. R. Williams, Research Center