October 26, 1959

Dr. D. E. Van Farowe, Chief
Division of Industrial Hygiene
Michigan Department of Health
Lansing 26, Michigan

Dear Dr. Van Farowe:

Recently you wrote to this Company requesting information concerning our Marinite products. Your letter was forwarded to me for reply.

Our Marinite asbestos products contain from 25% to 50% of asbestos fibers. In addition, they contain a calcium silicate which results from the chemical reaction of lime and natural diatomaceous earth products. The calcium silicate is not toxic if inhaled. It is a recognized fact, however, that continued inhalation of asbestos fiber in sufficient quantities over a long period of time may cause some pulmonary damage.

In addition to proper material handling methods, good housekeeping practices and adequate ventilation at a dust source will remove any health hazard that might exist. If engineering control of the dust is impossible, we advise that the employee use respirators approved for a pneumoconiosis producing dust.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth W. Smith, M. D.
Medical Director

bcc: H. M. Ball
C. P. Weber

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