GHQ
November 5, 1959

H. G. Donovan, Research

Bonafide Plastics Company

I have noted your request that I should write to this company outlining the fact that asbestos fibre is no more hazardous than limestone, cement, or other products of that nature. Apparently, the New Jersey State Health Department believes that there is a very definite health hazard due to asbestosis in this company's operations.

Unfortunately, I cannot write such a letter for it is a well recognized fact that asbestos fibre is a very definite health hazard when improperly handled. It is a substance which is definitely more toxic when inhaled than is limestone or cement. It is entirely possible that this company's handling of asbestos fibre is improper and is creating a potential health hazard and a workmen's compensation liability.

It might be possible to help this customer in another way if you so desire. It might be advisable to review his material handling procedures, the number of employees involved, his housekeeping program, as well as the dust counts taken by the State and their specific objections. I would be very happy to review this information with you if it can be obtained.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

cc: H. M. Ball
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