KWS
April [illegible], 1959

L. E. Inguagiato, Marrero

C.F. No. 046-17
Fungus Resistant Asbestos Roofing Shingles

On April 6, you wrote to Hugh Jackson on the above subject. Inasmuch as Mr. [illegible] out of the office on an extended trip I would like to comment on one phase of this project. I was very pleased to note that you are investigating potential health hazards associated with new raw materials and products. This shows intelligent and positive thinking which should aid in protecting the health of our employees and customers.

The Barium Metaborate must be a very new compound for I have checked our chemical dictionaries and toxicology reference books and can find no reference to it. Because the various barium compounds can be very highly toxic, I would like to get some more information concerning this substance. It would be greatly appreciated if you could send me the information supplied by Buckman Laboratories concerning potential health hazards in the use of this barium compound. I was interested to note that the manufacturer says the word "poison" does not have to appear on the label. However, I would like to be certain that the word "warning" or "caution" is unnecessary according to the standards of the Manufacturing Chemists Association. Also of interest would be the knowledge concerning the type of respirator recommended by the manufacturer. We should know whether or not to use a chemical cartridge respirator, or simply one which will prevent the inhalation of dust particles.

If you can send me the information supplied by the manufacturer, I shall be pleased to comment upon it.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

cc: D. E. Hillier

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