FILE

General Headquarters
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HMJ
KWS

N. J. O'Brien - Manville

Perlite

We have just received certain confidential information which indicates that there is a potential serious health hazard in the use of expanded perlite. The perlite producers have not seen fit to publish the results of their research in the health field and the medical literature today contains very little about this material. However, confidential sources have warned us that the inhalation of this expanded perlite will predispose to the development of pulmonary tuberculosis and will aggravate an existing healed tuberculous lesion. In addition, the type of tuberculosis thus developed is a very rapidly progressing one and might often have a fatal outcome. Therefore, until we can obtain more factual information, I believe that the following precautions should be taken.

A list of all employees who are exposed to this material should be established. This list should include everyone whether in research or production capacity on the salary and hourly payrolls whether in the shipping and receiving, production, maintenance or other fields. Everyone on this list should have a chest x-ray every six months. No one should be allowed to work in contact with this material who has evidence of present or past pulmonary disease, especially a healed tuberculous lesion. Once the list of employees has been established indicating that those exposed to the material are free from pulmonary disease there should be no new additions to this list and no one should be allowed to work where this material can be inhaled until they have received approval from the Medical Department.

It is our understanding that arrangements have been made for industrial hygiene samples to be taken at the initial run of the Fibrous equipment. Frequent periodic checks should be made to determine that the dust control is satisfactory. Although a maximum allowable concentration for this material has been established it would be our policy to maintain a control efficiency of less than 5 million particles per cubic foot.

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