June 21, 1957

Dr. Kenneth W. Smith
Medical Director
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Ken:

We are enclosing a copy of the Pomerleau report.

Thank you for the information and reprint regarding the solubility of asbestos fibers.

I have embedded some of my superfine asbestos fluff in paraffin and had sections cut of it. This was photographed under dark field conditions. The same field was rephotographed following incineration at 550°C. and treated with concentrated HCl for 30 minutes. Neither I nor Hal Schrenk, nor Dan Braun, nor my co-workers at the laboratory, could detect any differences in the photographs. However, the material is fairly densely bunched, and, to obviate this potential criticism, I am repeating with a thin smear of this exceedingly finely divided asbestos. I shall send you the photographs.

In the meantime, I have asked that the manuscript be returned for revision. If we find that we are on insecure grounds, we shall delete all reference to the paucity of asbestos dust deposits in the lung. However, I still would like to leave in a statement that asbestosis is to be regarded as a non-progressive disease not in contrast to the demonstrated progressiveness of silicosis. As I recall, we made some corrections on your copy of the manuscript. I would like to incorporate these changes in our revised version. Would you send me your copy for this purpose. After the revisions have been made, I shall send you a copy for your approval, and, if you approve, I shall then send it to the editor.

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Any comments on the lung cancer case in which I could not find the primary?

Sincerely yours,

Paul Gross, M.D.
Research Pathologist

PG:bg

Enclosure

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