NOTED
HMB

March 6, 1952

William Ray Rumel, M.D.
Medical Arts Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

Dear Dr. Rumel:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 6th addressed to our office in New York City. We will be happy to give you what information is available in reply to your questions.

We are not familiar with UTE asbestos. The fibre which we produce and ship is chrysotile. Asbestos produced from various deposits in Canada and elsewhere do vary in chemical content and, unfortunately, we do not have data regarding the chemical content of all types of chrysotile powder.

Asbestos Powder or Floats from our own operation will vary somewhat in chemical make-up and there is a variation in particle size within limits that is not detrimental to its normal commercial use. We would not be willing to make any representation concerning their suitability for such specialized surgical purposes as you have in mind.

Asbestos Floats are packed in 100-lb. net paper bags and sell at $60.00 per ton, f.o.b. the mines in Canada. In smaller quantities the price is $65.00 per ton higher but the freight rate is very much higher.

We have from time to time sent Asbestos Powder or Floats, known as 7TF8, to a number of people for experimental work, entirely at their own request and risk.

Dr. Peter D. Wermid of Stevens Laboratory is quite familiar with Canadian asbestos fibre and he, together with his predecessor, Dr. Leroy E. Gardner, have conducted on our behalf extensive dusting experiments with animals, using asbestos powders. It is our belief that in connection with these experiments chemical analyses of the asbestos were made. We would therefore suggest that Dr. Wermid be in a better position to answer the preliminary questions which you have raised than we would be. Until these important preliminary questions have been answered, we would not be in a position to quote on materials which we could be sure were satisfactory for the purpose you have in mind.

We know that the Stevens Laboratory have ground or ball-milled fibre to reduce the particle size in connection with some of their experiments but on this, too Stevens would be a better source of information than we.

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We are frankly hesitant to make any representations as to the consistency or chemical suitability of asbestos fibre in a case where the material is to be introduced into the heart area.

I regret that lack of knowledge of this situation requires extreme caution on our part in making any statements in connection with the various types and kinds of asbestos products which are marketed for other commercial purposes.

Very truly yours,

J. C. KELLEHER
Vice-President

JCK/t

cc: Vandiver Brown - Chg Doc Dept
H. V. Lindell - Asbestos 1200

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