March 18, 1958

Mr. J. P. Pilotte
Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited
Arvida, Quebec
Canada

Dear Mr. Pilotte:

Recently you wrote to our offices in Montreal requesting information concerning our Marinite products. Your letter was forwarded to me for reply.

Marinite is composed of asbestos fibre and calcium silicate which results from a chemical reaction. The calcium silicate is nontoxic if inhaled. It is a recognized fact that continued inhalation of asbestos fibre in sufficient quantities over a long period of time may cause some pulmonary changes. However, in our mines and mills at Asbestos, Quebec, where approximately 2000 employees are producing in excess of 500,000 tons of asbestos fibre annually we have developed no new cases of asbestosis for many years.

We believe that proper material handling methods, good housekeeping practices, and an exhaust ventilation at a dust source will remove any health hazard that might exist. If engineering control of dust is impossible, we advise employees to use respirators approved for pneumoconiosis producing dust.

Dust counts taken during routine industrial hygiene surveys show that we have no atmospheric contamination in excess of 5 million particles per cubic foot recommended by government agencies. Periodic physical examinations of our employees, including chest x-rays, confirm the fact that they are not being harmed by their work.

I would like to note that your Chief Medical Consultant, Dr. H. E. Gilbert, is a personal friend of mine. He is acquainted with our operations at Asbestos, Quebec, and might offer you further advice. However, if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth B. Smith, M.D.
Medical Director

cc: T. H. Eaton
W. B. Pridham, Manbas
E. F. Ward, Montreal Office
H. M. Ball