COPY

January 30, 1950

Dr. Arthur J. Vorwald,
The Trudeau Foundation,
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Re: Petrographic Observation
8 Asbestos Samples

Dear Dr. Vorwald,

I have received the report on the petrographic study of the samples of asbestos dust and I would have so many comments to make that I prefer to wait until I go to Saranac to do so. Meanwhile I must say that it looks very strange to me that the percentage of Chrysotile in the whole series of samples is about the same because the purpose of the operations in the industry is exactly to separate the fibers from the serpentine rock and therefore if the equipment is functioning properly the percentage of serpentine should decrease gradually also from 1 to 8.

The previous dust surveys made in our industry have shown quite clearly that the [illegible] rising from 20% to 61% and that the percentage of fibers are increasing from 1% to 20% with the first of operations. And I should mention that these last results seem very much consistent with our clinical and roentgenological findings meaning that our cases of asbestosis are all detected in the last operations when the percentage of fibers is high.

Sim will communicate his comments to you on this matter and we could start all over again with a similar technic after discussion and maybe with a more standard method.

As a last remark, I want to emphasize that the dust collected are not at all representative of the dust inhaled by the workers. The samples were taken about 6 inches only from the worst points of origin without trying to consider the breathing atmosphere of the workers, because I was asked to collect a handful of dust in different locations on the rocks or elsewhere. The breathing level apparently was not important for the purpose of your special investigation.

Yours very truly,

Ian Sheldon K.C.

Paul Cartier, M.D.

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