Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: P. Kotin, M.D.

Date: July 11, 1978

From: W. B. Reitze

Copies:

Subject: LETTER OF D. V. BATES, M.D., TO NEWFOUNDLAND MINISTER OF HEALTH

Although I did not see the television program in question, I am sure it had some basis of fact for, as we know, it is a rather common occurrence when children write their names on automobiles in asbestos dust near the Advocate mine. We have seen such accumulations of dust at the guest house as well as in the town of Baie Verte. It is also a matter of record that this same procedure can be accomplished in Asbestos, Quebec, or Thetford, Quebec. Most of this dust in all three locations occurs in the handling of the tailings. This condition has been going on for decades at the three above-named places. I am sure there are instances where the tailings have blown around uncontrolled for unknown years.

I am not quite sure of the progress that has been made at Advocate in this situation, but I do know that progress has been slow in the Thetford mines area, and a recent visit there indicated conditions no different from those in Advocate.

I mentioned these other locations not to justify the problem at Advocate, but to point out that to date the tailings area of waste disposal has been an unsolvable problem.

Does anyone have any studies dealing with the populations surrounding Jeffrey and/or Thetford? Did McDonald do any study in this area?

WBR

W. B. Reitze

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