Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

To: P. KOTIN, MD

Date: NOV. 11, 1975

From: W. B. REITZE

Copies: E. M. FENNER; M. SHARRATT

Subject: MINING ACTIVITIES REPORT

YESTERDAY ED FENNER AND I MET WITH MIKE SHARRATT TO DISCUSS THIS RATHER LENGTHY REPORT. WE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL EACH ONE OF THE ENTRIES AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT AT PRESENT THERE ARE ONLY TWO WHICH MAY CONCERN US.

THE FIRST WOULD BE OUR JOINT VENTURE IN MEXICO WITH PEÑOLES. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL BE A 40% PARTNER WITH PEÑOLES AND THAT THE MACHINERY FOR THE MINING AND MILLING IS TO BE THAT MACHINERY THAT WE HAVE USED AT THE REEVES LOCATION. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THIS MACHINERY, WHILE IN OPERATION AT REEVES TOWNSHIP, WAS NOT AT ALL ADEQUATE IN CONTROLLING ASBESTOS FIBER AND DUST IN THE WORK PLACE. IN FACT, YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE FIBER LEVELS IN MANY INSTANCES AT REEVES WERE IN THE 50-100 F/CC LEVEL. I DO NOT SEE HOW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TO IN CLEAR CONSCIENCE BE A PART OF A MINING OPERATION WHICH WE KNOW FROM THE START WILL ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE OPERATION. APPARENTLY A CHECK HAS BEEN MADE OF THE MEXICAN REGULATIONS AND THE THOUGHT IS THAT WE WILL MEET THESE REGULATIONS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MEXICO HAS NO REGULATIONS SO THEREFORE TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT IS MEANINGLESS. ANOTHER THOUGHT HAS BEEN ADVANCED THAT WE WOULD REQUEST PEÑOLES TO ACCEPT ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE AT THE MEXICAN OPERATION. EVEN IF PENOLES WERE TO AGREE TO THIS, I AM NOT QUITE CERTAIN WHETHER WE WOULD BE SAFE MORALLY, LEGALLY, OR PUBLIC RELATIONS WISE. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD FOLLOW THIS VERY CLOSELY AND DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT PROPER ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN.

THE SECOND ITEM IN THE MINING REPORT DEALS WITH A NICKEL CONCENTRATING PILOT MILL THAT HAS BEEN SET UP IN JEFFREY. I HAVE WRITTEN TO BILL STREIB AT R&D TO SECURE MORE DETAILS ON THIS OPERATION.

W. B. REITZE

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no foundation?