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INTER ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATION

Raybestos-Manhattan

Manheim, PA

TO: Mr. J. H. Marsh DATE: December 2, 1977

SUBJECT: Review of Robinson Paper on Mortality Patterns 1940-1975

I've reviewed subject paper and find the figures on asbestos usage coincide with information given to NIOSH by me at various times. Actually, my figure of 375 tons peak amosite usage probably is excessive. Three hundred tons might be more accurate. Unfortunately, no records appear to be available on which to base anything more accurate.

I cannot vouch for any of the medical or statistical data and must assume it is correct or at least can be justified by NIOSH.

As for mesothelioma, I think they have stretched things when they use these results to implicate chrysotile as a cause. With only 17 meso. cases in a cohort of 3277, or barely 1/2%, it is quite possible, even probable, all 17 were exposed to crocidolite and/or amosite. This should be easy to check if we can get names from NIOSH, as our employment records probably show these people to have worked with or near exposures other than chrysotile. They may all have had high crocidolite exposures.

I consider NIOSH extremely remiss in failing to investigate this. As far as I'm concerned it indicates a lack of desire to establish the true facts and constitutes another attempt to back up a preconceived notion concerning an association between chrysotile exposure and mesothelioma.

Another deficiency is the failure to relate adverse health effects to dosage. Perhaps this shouldn't be a part of such a mortality study, but it certainly is important that many of the deaths probably were related to very high exposures. I doubt NIOSH made any attempt to correlate these cases with the exposure data.

I. H. Weaver

grb

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CRMC-Motley1000-Subj-002546

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