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To (Name) Mr. John A. Riddle
Division Chemicals & Plastics
Location P. O. Box K
King City, California 93930

Date January 19, 1968

Originating Dept. Medical

Answering letter date

Copy to

Subject

Dear John:

The relation between crocidolite and mesothelioma seems to be pretty strongly established by experience in South Africa and elsewhere. The relation between chrysotile and mesothelioma is not clear. If it exists, it apparently is much less prounced than that shown by crocidolite.

The limit of 5 MPPCF that we observe in our operations is still recognized in the United States as satisfactory for chrysotile, but there is strong feeling that it is much too high for crocidolite. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see supplied-air respirators recommended for handling the latter.

In our own operations with chrysotile, I feel that we should try to control the dust to levels as far below 5 MPPCF as reasonably possible. That is, I don't believe we should be content with control that just maintains the level at 5 MPPCF. Actually, this figure is known as a threshold guide and not a level that strictly defines safe and unsafe conditions.

There is some thought that metals associated with asbestos either from the ore or from milling machines, etc., may be part of the problem. Investigation is underway to evaluate this potential; and as soon as I hear more about it, I'll let you know.

Very truly yours,

Paul W. McDaniel
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

PWM:dmf

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