

06/30/94

The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association
1101 17th St., N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-4702

attn: Dr. Stephen Gettings

Dear Steve:

Just a couple of notes with respect to the meeting on Tuesday and the Heiler report.

It is important to remember that if Boorman finds birefringent crystals in his examination of the tissue samples which he is to review, that does not necessarily mean that he has found talc. The majority of natural minerals are birefringent thus additional work should be done to identify anything that he finds. If he finds material by polarized light microscopy then it should be of a size sufficient to enable us to characterize the particles chemically, using scanning electron microscopy in the first instance.

The analytical procedures used in the Heller study, if applied correctly are appropriate for characterization of the fibers and particles which they observed. The presence of crocidolite in ovarian tissue, however, does seem quite an anomaly. Crocidolite is not a natural associate of the other material observed and its presence on this continent is an indicator of some form of industrial usage. Crocidolite is an asbestos mineral - "blue asbestos" which was imported from South Africa for particular asbestos applications where the use of chrysotile or chrysotile alone did not address either manufacturing or usage requirements. It is difficult to visualize how such material could migrate to the ovary while it was in the body, thus contamination following removal of the ovary must be considered a possibility.

Sincerely,



Ian M. Stewart
Vice President, Analytical Services

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