

NGK INSULATORS, LTD.

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MIZUHO, NAGOYA, 18210

August 9, 1974

Mr. H.G. Piper, Vice President
Brush Wellman Inc.
17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland
Ohio 44110, U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Our company has 55 years of history as an electrical insulator maker and is known to be a supplier of quality insulators throughout the world. Using our experience accumulated in the porcelain manufacture, we began our studies of BeO ceramics about 20 years ago and at present we have established ourselves as the only domestic integrated maker of BeO products from raw material refining to manufacture, processing and sale of the products.

As you are aware, however, this beryllium involves a difficult problem called beryllium hazard and our company has been providing suitable protective measures against the problem. At the outset of our manufacturing operation, there were a number of occurrences of such acute diseases as pneumonia, bronchitis, dermatitis, etc., but they were all completely cured with a short-term medical care, and in the last few years there has been hardly any occurrence of such acute diseases. I believe that our improvement of the work environment and our unique regular health care and control for the employees have been instrumental in this betterment.

But, regrettably, our company has experienced two cases this year which are diagnosed as pulmonary berylliosis and three other cases have also occurred in other domestic BeO ceramics manufacturers. All of these cases have occurred in places of relatively low Be exposure concentration of less than 2 g/m³, the causality of which it is difficult for us to presume from the standpoint of our conventional concept regarding the relation of an occurrence of this hazard to Be exposure concentration.

To prevent Be hazard, the Labor Ministry of Japan has enacted certain Preventive Regulations for supervising factories. Concepts used as standard for the Regulations have been determined by Dr. Shogo Shimizu,

Deposition Ex#	149
Date:	
Depo:	
James E. Bouley	
Court Reporter	

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Mr. R.O. Piper

August 9, 1974

Professor of School of Medicine, Fujita Gakuen University in Nagoya, who concurrently serves as medical staff for our company. For this reason, our company as well as Dr. Shima are consulted by the Ministry on a continual basis on the future preventive measures against the occurrences of pulmonary berylliosis caused by Be exposure of low concentration, and currently we are working jointly to put together available data on the past Be exposure environments in our company. It is expected that as a result of these efforts the basic direction and policy of Japanese standards for the prevention and control of Be hazard and for the manufacture and use of Be products will be eventually determined.

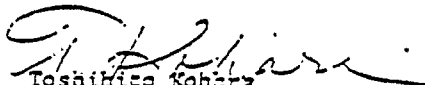
In the meantime, specific attention is being paid to even the exposure to trace amount of Be, as demonstrated in the discussion held at a recent ILO conference by a few countries such as France, Canada, etc., in favor of designating Be as a carcinogenic substance. I believe that, at the time when Be hazard is being taken up as an international problem from new perspective, many difficulties will be encountered if our company seeks to determine desirable directions of future Be control and prevention only on the basis of our data and experience. Therefore, I believe that it will be significant in solving the problem to receive valuable comments on Be control and prevention from your company having a long history and experience with Be.

I would like to ask you to give us an opportunity to meet your people firsthand and talk about your situations on the control of Be workshop, conditions of occurrence of pulmonary berylliosis and its measures, environmental monitoring, disposal of industrial waste, and related problems. At such an opportunity we would like to explain our own counterparts to your people. If you can grant us this opportunity, suitable dates at the end of September will be convenient with us. On our part, we will send Dr. Shima and a few personnel in charge of health control. We will be very happy if our people can have talks and discussions with your medical doctor and personnel in charge of health control for your Be-related employees.

I look forward to hearing from you a very favorable reply.

Sincerely yours,

NGK INSULATORS, LTD.


Toshinico Kohara
Director & General Manager
Personnel Department

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