

ERRATUM

Composition, $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$, and crystal structure of non-asbestiform and asbestiform amphiboles from Libby, Montana, U.S.A. by M.E. Gunter, M.D. Dyar, B. Twamley, F.F. Foit Jr., and S. Cornelius (vol. 88, no. 11–12, pages 1970–1978, 2003).

On the first page of this paper, toward the end of the second paragraph, this paper says that W.R. Grace provided an estimate. The statement should read:

Recently, reports in the media estimated that this product [Zonolite] may be in as many as 15 million homes in the United states.

The authors apologize for this error

In addition M.E.G. offers this new information:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a study (USEPA 1985) that reviewed the available exposure data for asbestos in vermiculite and estimated asbestos exposures to workers and consumers who come into contact with asbestos-contaminated vermiculite. A part of this study was to make an estimate of how many homes in the U.S. contained vermiculite insulation. Based on the amount of vermiculite produced and the amount used in houses, they estimated 940,000 homes might contain vermiculite insulation. As the Libby story made national news, estimates first reported by the media, 2.5 to 16 million homes (Schneider 2000), exceeded EPA's 1985 estimate. These reported estimates have now grown to 15 to 35 million in the media (for example, Schneider 2002, Zalac 2003, and Schneider and McCumber 2004) and even a on U.S. Senator's website (Murray 2003). Interestingly, these sources cite the EPA for these higher numbers. However, cognizant EPA officials contacted are not knowledgeable of published EPA estimates other than the 1985 study (personal communication John H. Smith, EPA's National Program Chemicals Division in main office, Washington, D.C.,

2004). A Department of Energy study (USDOE 1997) states there are approximately 65 million single-family homes in the US; thus, these larger estimates would require up to one-half of the houses in the US to contain Zonolite.

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