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June 30, 2006

Mr. William C. Ford  
Senior Vice President  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
1605 King St.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Final Report

Dear Mr. Ford:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed report, "Evaluation of the Approach Recently Proposed for Assessing Asbestos-Related Risk in El Dorado County, California." This report was prepared in response to your request that I comment on some of the issues currently being discussed concerning the evaluation of asbestos-related risks in the County. Given the extensive work I have done over the last 20 years in developing mutually consistent methods for measuring asbestos and a companion protocol for assessing asbestos-related risk (primarily for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – EPA), I thought my perspective on these issues could prove helpful.

Having worked with EPA for most of my career, I understand that the Agency strives first and foremost to protect public health. I also understand the need to respect precedent, as the regulatory environment needs to remain stable so that the regulated community can anticipate requirements as they go about their activities. Thus, change must be slow and deliberate. Modifications to Agency policy must consequently occur only after substantial and formal review. Therefore, I have endeavored to frame my comments with these constraints in mind. In fact, I have explicitly addressed issues associated with both precedent and the overall protection of public health in the enclosed report.

Interestingly, the concerns over asbestos being aired in El Dorado County are not new. They were raised at least as far back as 1998, when I was personally invited by Mr. Peter M. Rooney, then the head of the California EPA, to serve as a member of the State Asbestos Task Force. At that time (and ever since) I have been recommending that a detailed (and proper) characterization of the nature and distribution of asbestos in County soil and rock be conducted in a manner suitable for supporting risk assessment. Unfortunately, however, this still remains to be completed. Hopefully, the recent attention that is focused on asbestos in the County will serve as the impetus to

complete the required investigations and evaluations so that County residents will finally be provided with the information needed to make informed decisions about asbestos and their lives.

If you have any questions about the enclosed report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Wayne Berman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

D. Wayne Berman, Ph.D.  
President