

FILE NAME: Railroads (RR)

DATE: 1981 Feb 2

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter RE Use of Asbestos Rope as a Wick to Heat Rail

February 2, 1981

400-500



Mr. N. J. Andrews
General Manager-Safety/Technical
Training
Illinois Central Gulf Railroad
Two Illinois Center
233 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Nick:

This is in reference to your letter of January 28, 1981, concerning ICG's practice using asbestos rope as a wick to heat rail when making joints.

We have checked with our engineering people and find that our Company uses sawdust for this purpose. Although they have tried many materials, they find sawdust which has been soaked in a mixture of gasoline and fuel oil to be the best. The sawdust is spread along the base of the rail for several rail links on either side of the joint, then ignited. As the sawdust burns fuel oil is poured along the web of the rail where it runs down to the fire and prolongs it until the joint can be huck-bolted.

Our Engineering Department advises that there is a high density rope for this purpose available from the Fil-Tec Company, P. O. Box 513, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. We have not tried this product, but you might want to have a look at it.

Sincerely,

R. D. Shaver
Manager of Safety-System

cc: All Members of the Steering Committee