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Work Practices for
Drilling Mud Asbestos
Sh-17-79

Mr. T. A. Robinson
552 FPB

ASB 000798

Drilling Specialties Company has been selling asbestos fiber under the trademark Flosal® for over 15 years. In 1970, we found that Flosal was a potentially hazardous material. The product we were producing was dusty. It is a soft, grade 7 chrysotile fiber, thus probably non-hazardous. Medical histories show no evidence that soft chrysotile fibers are carcinogenic.

In 1970, therefore, we began a program to insure the safety of men who would handle Flosal fiber. We studied various methods of removing the fiber from the sack and putting it in the drilling mud in a dust-free manner. We actually constructed several sack emptying models, none of which were particularly successful. It became obvious that the way to make Flosal fiber dust-free was to modify its physical form.

After four years research, we were able to market such a material. We used a binder listed in the OSHA regulations on asbestos. It is water. The secret was the proper compressing of the fiber and subsequent flaking of extruded pellets. We were able, with the cooperation of Johns-Manville, to produce a product that is essentially dust-free, but which still disperses rapidly enough in a mud system to prevent removal by the shale shaker.

Johns-Manville advised us that since the product is essentially dust-free, we should be able to write work practices for the use of the material which could then be accepted by OSHA. This has been done in the case of asbestos cement fiber. We followed closely the form of the asbestos cement pipe work practices (attached) in preparing the attached rough draft of Work Practices For The Use of Drilling Mud Grade Asbestos (DMA).

We would appreciate your comments on these work practices.

F. J. Shell

FJS:tlb - RC

Attachments

cc: C. A. Wentz (1 attach)
V. E. Gaede "
H. W. Brown "
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via: Thru
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Please place
T.J. Smalstig
in charge

DEPOSITION EXHIBIT 3 Floyd

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
DMA-1633