

FILE NAME: Drilling Specialties (DRSP)

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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May 16, 1978

Drilling Specialities - Asbestos
WJB-33-78

Human Resources
Medical Division

✓ ASB 000717

D. A. Tyler
OFFICE

Per your note I met for lunch Monday, May 15, 1978, with Mr. C. A. Wentz, Manager, Drilling Specialities, four members of his staff including Mr. Jack Howa and Mr. Frank Shall, and Mr. Steven L. Kuhn, Special Representative Asbestos Fiber, Johns-Manville Sales Corporation.

Mr. Wentz asked my opinion regarding the health hazard associated with the use of Flosal, an asbestos drilling fluid additive marketed by the Company. I recalled the reports of survey issued by this division indicate there were no asbestos concentrations in excess of the present federal limit of 2 fibers/cubic centimeter of air. The handling of Flosal asbestos drilling mud additive is discontinuous throughout the work day. It is added at periodic intervals, generally once per 8-hour shift to the drilling fluid system. These additions require perhaps 10 minutes to an hour's time, depending on the rate of addition and the facilities available. These infrequent potentials for contact should allow Drilling Specialities' customers to be in compliance with OSHA regulations.

Should the 8-hour time-weighted average exposure limit be reduced to 0.1 fiber/cc, as presently proposed by NIOSH, there would be difficulty with compliance without the use of respiratory protective equipment. However, the use of certified respiratory protective equipment and perhaps other measures as may be called for in any revised standard should allow for compliance.

Mr. Wentz advised that Drilling Specialities has been conservative in their statements regarding Flosal and dust levels associated with it. He also said they have lost a considerable share of the asbestos fiber market to competitors while the drilling industry is very active. One of the reasons given was that competitors who are supplied by Union Carbide package their material in a plastic bag which they state is "OSHA approved". "OSHA approval" appears to be a figment of some sales manager's imagination. I suggested the Drilling Specialities sales people advise customers of this and "request the particulars on the OSHA approval such as approval number, etc."

✓ CDD 255140

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ASB 000718

May 16, 1978

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D. A. Tyler

Mr. Kuhn indicated Johns-Manville does not believe the 0.1 or even a 0.5 fiber/cc standard will be adopted, but that perhaps a 1 fiber/cc limit will be adopted.

I do not foresee how we can further assist Drilling Specialties in this matter.

W. J. Brown
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WJB:bm

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