ASARCO

Central Research Department
South Plainfield, N.J. 07080

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
ASA-517

May 26, 1977

Mr. M. J. Messel
President
LAKE ASBESTOS OF QUEBEC, LTD.

CAPCO

Attached is a copy of Mr. C. E. Stiefken's trip report to CAPCO. We will continue to work with the plants on the various projects discussed.

V. Kudryk

VK/lk
Attach.

cc: Mr. E. Martinez
Dr. W. P. Roe
Mr. C. E. Stiefken

ASARCO

Central Research Department
South Plainfield, N.J. 07080

May 11, 1977
Re: 695

Dr. V. Kudryk
B U I L D I N G

Capco Trip, Birmingham & Ragland, Ala.

A visit was made to Capco at the Birmingham, Alabama company offices and at the Ragland, Alabama asbestos cement pipe plant during the period of May 4 to 6, 1977. The purpose of the call was to generally review current practices, to discuss any outstanding process changes, and if possible, to determine how the Research Laboratory could assist the producing plants at Ragland and at Van Buren, Arkansas.

A. Birmingham, Mr. A. E. Alpine:

In discussions with Bert Alpine, he told me that both operating plants use a maximum of 40% Lake 4T3 fibers. Lake is used as the basic fiber in process fiber blends for all pressure pipe sizes and classes. Other fibers used with 4T3, particularly at Van Buren, are Calaveras 4T, Cassiar CT, Russian P5, Blue, and occasionally for small sizes (6"-8") and sewer pipe, Lake 5R4. Blue is being used only on 12" pipe and larger.

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At Ragland, Mr. Alpine has hired another ex Certain-teed man, George Sidlo, as Manager. George was formerly General manager at the Hillsboro Texas, plant. Mr. Sidlo, according to Mr. Alpine, is "in the midst of sorting out the operations mess" and is "up to his ears in getting acquainted with the operation". The job is said to be frustrating, and they need pipe men, not development people at this time and according to Bert, the Ragland plant has been plagued with excessive down time caused by careless operation which has been the most damaging cause of poor production. Potential for the plant is about 33,000 tons of pipe at the present time.

Ragland needs engineering changes, part of which are already in or being worked on, such as conveying equipment and mixers. A new mix silo with a live bottom bin has been installed. The stock chest will be located immediately behind the cylinder vats, exactly as at Van Buren. Other changes will be in the mandrel feed, and in the first phase of the mixing system. Davis Weaver is working on a second pipe testing line for final quality control which includes flex and hydro testing.

The Kevlar fiber reinforcement development work is at the stage where Roger Drew of the Patent Department is scheduled to discuss final patent application with Capco.

Fiber in inventory at Ragland at this time is as follows:

Cassiar AK
Cassiar CT
Russian P4
Russian P5
} predominating
Lake 4T3
Blue

At the present time Mr. Sidlo has with him the following operations people, all of whom are new to Ragland:

Bud Oliver, Superintendent of Forming, ex Certain-teed
Bud Swafford, Quality Control Superintendent
Gene Ford, Lab. Technician

We had in depth discussions on Lake fibers, fiberizing, cement and laboratory tests and testing. Mr. Sidlo was very pleased at our visit and was happy to know that the Research Laboratory was available for assistance.

C. E. Stiefken

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