ZONOLITE
CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIVISION

Ed Van Vliet
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TO: A. W. Dambros/Zono-LA Office DATE: March 29, 1972

FROM: T. P. Feit SUBJECT: Painted Steel (Tnemec)

cc: W. V. Culver/Zono-Auburn
T. F. Egan/Zono-Wilmette
J. C. Ottinger
G. S. Orenstein
C. H. Wendel/Zono-LA Office
B. R. Williams
J. L. Wright

Dear Al:

I did have occasion to talk to Bill Culver, and I mentioned to him your March 21 note. The article appearing in the September, 1971, issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING-ASCE is a poorly written one, and the final reference to John Ottinger making a statement about shop coated steel perhaps needs some clarification. Before getting into the details, however, let me emphasize that it is neither John Ottinger's nor Zonolite's position that steel should be shop coated before application of Mono-Kote.

It is my belief that we would have an extremely difficult time bonding Mono-Kote to every conceivable type of painted steel. I know, for example, that our bond to painted steel deck is not as good as the bond to galvanized steel deck. Paint is not paint, there being all types and formulations which could improve or impair the bond of Mono-Kote to the steel. Without an extensive research effort on our part to check out each conceivable recommended type of paint coating, I believe that we are better off not getting too deeply into this controversy.

On the other hand, we all are familiar with steel that sits around and becomes pitted and extremely rusted before the time for the fire-proofing spraying. Our own recommended specifications are somewhat vague about how the steel needs to be prepared prior to the application of Mono-Kote. If [illegible] assume that badly pitted and rusted steel would be prepared properly before the application of Mono-Kote, then that is certainly acceptable. One of my concerns, however, especially in those areas where building or architectural inspection is not

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existent, is that the steel will not be cleaned and Mono-Kote will be applied to a surface to which it may not perform in a fire condition as we would hope or expect it to. For that [redacted] to shop coated steel when we know that the MK bond will not be impaired and when we know that it is likely that steel will become pitted and rusted and that the necessary preparation of the steel will not be performed. In my October 22, 1971, mailing, I included a pamphlet entitled, "A Structural Engineer Looks At Fire Protection" in which the author suggests "the cost of $8-$10 per ton (of steel) is a small price to pay" for the shop painting of steel to avoid the difficulties and shortcomings of fireproofing application to badly pitted and rusted and unprepared steel. It is hard for me to imagine that this cost would change a design from steel to concrete.

You will note in the above that I have taken both sides of this argument. On the one hand, I can see where we do not want to take a company position of recommending shop coated steel, while on the other hand, it may be (at least in some instances) the best and only position that we can and ought to take. I must confess that I have done nothing in this regard. If the changeover is from otherwise steel designed buildings to concrete, certainly the steel companies and associations will have more impact in fighting the shop coating of steel than will Zonolite. That is not to say that I am unwilling to fight the battle, I am only saying that I am not certain if we are sufficiently prepared to enter into it.

I asked Bill Culver to provide me with whatever he can to document what Tnemec has been saying that specifically refers to Mono-Kote or our position. I do intend, however, to write to Tnemec clarifying our position.

I trust that the above at least clarifies the reference to Ottinger's statement as it appeared in the CIVIL ENGINEERING-ASCE, September, 1971, issue.

Best regards. I'd appreciate any comments that you might have, Al, or for that matter any comments that anyone else might have receiving this.

Tom

Thomas P. Feit

TPF/jaj

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