CALL REPORT

c.c. D. Wood - St. Louis
E. E. White - St. Louis
V. K. Rajpal - Calcutta
Y. L. Narayan. Bom.

17th May, 1975

Coal Mining Authority,
Director General of Mine Safety,
DHANBAD (BIHAR)

Visited with: Mr. D. N. Bagchi - Dy. Director (Electrical)
Dr. K. Bhattacharya - Dy. Director (Mechnical)

From Mindiet: V. K. Rajpal
L. F. Mascarenhas

This was a very fruitful visit and we were able to discuss in detail hydraulic fluids and transformer askarel for mining application.

PYDRAUL

Dr. Bhattacharya is fully aware of fire resisting hydraulic fluids and the role these fluids play in mining applications.

The hydraulic equipment now in operation in mines use petroleum products but the newly formed Coal Mining Authority with its separate Safety Directorate is working full swing to bring safety to the miners. With this objective in view they are presently working closely with the Indian Standards Institution to bring a Standard whereby all hydraulic equipment in mines would be forced to use fire resisting fluids. The Indian Standards for fire resisting fluids is in the draft stage and Dr. Bhattacharya is on the Advisory Committee.

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We have left some literature with Dr. Bhattacharya and promised to send additional data shortly.

Pyroclor

Mr. D. N. Bagchi indicated that the Mines Safety Directorate has no responsibility for equipment on the surface of the mines. However, he is definitely concerned about transformers for use inside the mines.

The Coal Mining Authority in India closely follows the British National Coal Board decisions. Mr. Bagchi indicated that the British NCB specifically prohibits the use of askarel transformers inside the mines, but it permits the use of hydrogenated oils as coolants. The latest development in this direction is the recommendation to use air cooled transformers which requires very expensive Class C insulation. As this type of insulation is very expensive the CMA wants us to investigate if the British NCB have specific reasons for not recommending askarel transformers for use inside the mines.

Coal Mine PVC belts

We discussed the subject of Coal Mine Belts with Dr. Bhattacharya. It was confirmed by him that CMA specifications are based on specific formulations submitted by belt manufacturers. If there is a change in formulations, the manufacturers have to obtain specific approval from the Mining Directorate before arranging supplies.

ACTION PLAN

1. Obtain draft of ISI standard on fire resisting hydraulic fluids and send to St. Louis for comments. LDM

2. Submit literature on Pydraul / Sentosafe to Mr. Bhattacharya and see if he will initiate any action whereby the CMA could be asked to stipulate Pydraul in hydraulic equipment they order. VKR

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3. Obtain draft of B.S.S. No. 72/43954/DC from B. S. Inst., 2 Park Street, London. (Air cooled transformers) LFM

4. Find out why the British NCB prohibit the use of enclosed transformers inside the mines. LFM

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