Johns-Manville Research Laboratory
Manville, New Jersey

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EXAMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN BLUE FIBER FOR USE IN TRANSITE PIPE

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I. SUMMARY:

This report covers an investigation made to evaluate a Grade 3 blue asbestos fiber, mined in Australia, for possible use in the manufacture of Transite Pipe. The investigation was requested by Johns-Manville International Corporation, which had secured a quantity of this fiber and submitted it to the Research Laboratory for test.

Standard sag tests were made with the Australian Blue fiber replacing MS Blue in various quantities. A three-hour production operation was conducted, during which the Australian Blue fiber replaced the MS Blue in the standard M-62-1 blend. The experimental blend was designated M-154-1.

Sag tests revealed that the behavior characteristics of the Australian Blue fiber are essentially equal to that of MS Blue. Some loss in strength was noted, but this appeared to be due to a greater processing resistance on the part of the Australian fiber.

Results of the short production run indicate that machine operation and characteristics of the pipe manufactured using Blend 154-1 are essentially equal to that obtained when using the standard blend. It must be emphasized, however, that an extended operation is necessary to determine fully the characteristics of this experimental blend. Some fiber remains available for this purpose, but it is desirable to secure additional material.

On the basis of the limited work done, it is concluded that Australian Blue fiber is capable of replacing MS Blue in the standard fiber blends.

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