

FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

DATE: 1978

DOC#: JMA016

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Asbestos Cement Pipe Cutters-Hazards -
Customer List and Related Correspondence



Division Headquarters
October 12, 1978

To: ALL PIPE PERSONNEL

FIELD CUTTING PROCEDURES FOR TRANSITE PIPE

The AWWA and the Association of Asbestos Cement Pipe Producers have recently published booklets entitled "Recommended Work Practices for Asbestos Cement Pipe". The work practices recommended in this booklet were arrived at after careful research in California to determine the dust levels generated from the use of certain field machining tools. The objective was to identify those practices which produce dust levels exceeding the recommendations of the Occupational Safety and Health Agency of the United States.

The use of the abrasive disc for cutting asbestos cement pipe is specifically and emphatically not recommended in these booklets. This poses a problem for people who work with our pipe because the abrasive disc makes a fast clean cut. However, continuous heavy exposure to the dust levels produced by this method could be injurious to health. It simply makes good sense for us to recommend forcefully to the people who use our pipe that the safest means of handling it be employed. One thing we can do is promote the use of the chain cutter, sometimes referred to as a snap cutter or the squeeze and pop cutter.

We have always had reservations about the use of this tool for cutting pressure pipe because it was suspected that the method could cause hairline cracks or other damage to the pipe. But recent tests performed at Long Beach Plant

has established that this damage is not done. Hydrostatic tests were performed on pressure pipe after being cut by the chain cutter, and machining. There was no loss of strength due to this cutting method.

The tools used for these tests were the Wheeler models shown in the attached literature as suitable for pressure pipe in sizes through 24" (models 5590 and 5591). These models have been redesigned with deeper cutting wheels so that the pipe is cut before the chains are allowed to exert a crushing action on the pipe. This applies even to the thickest pipe. You will be receiving enquiries about this when the AWWA booklet receives wider distribution. The Wheeler chain cutter can be recommended. A list of Canadian outlets is attached.

H. R. FRASER



REPLY TO ~~XX~~ASHTABULA, OHIO 44004 • P.O. Box 488 • Phone (216) 998-2788 • Cable Address: Wheeler Ashtabula
• Telex 98-0432 Answer Back WHEELALSCO-AST
□ TORRANCE, CALIF 90510 • P.O. Box 3428 • Phone (213) 371-1238 • Cable Address: Pilotools
• Telex 45-3486 Answer Back PILOTOOLS TRNC

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE PURCHASED WHEELER PRODUCTS

Intercity Industries Supply, Ltd.
669 Squier Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario

Don Benson, Limited
Post Office Box 8335, Station A
St. Johns, Newfoundland

Cessco
8660 - 61st. Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Crowle Fittings, Limited
Malton Postal Station
Post Office Box 254
Mississauga, Ontario L4T 386

W. H. Cunningham & Hill, Ltd.
2760 Old Leslie Street
Willowdale, Ontario

W. H. Cunningham & Hill, Ltd.
ALL Branches throughout Canada

Daigle Aqua, Incorporated
1369 Boul Ste. Foy
Longueuil, Quebec

Empire Water Works Supply Co.
791 Erin Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 2W2

Spencer Brothers & Turner, Ltd.
Truro, Nova Scotia

Fred Surridge, Limited
1574 West Second Street
Vancouver, 9, B.C.

Westburne Ind. Ent. Ltd.
4590 Henri Bourassa West
Montreal,

Westburne Ind. Ent. Ltd.
ALL Branches throughout Canada

Western Water & Sewer Supplies
6167 Sixth Street, S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2H 1L9

Western Water & Sewer Supplies
6153 - 80th Street
Edmonton, Alberta



P. O. BOX 688 ASHTABULA, OHIO 44004
Phone Area Code 216 998-2788 Cable Address Wheeler Ashtabula Telex 980432 Answer Back WHEELALSCO-AST

May 22, 1979

Mr. Hugh Frazer
Johns-Manville Canada Inc.
295 The West Mall
Etobicoke, ONTARIO
M9C 4Z7

Dear Mr. Frazer:

Thank you for making the arrangements to have your people there to watch our cutting demonstration with the Wheeler Dustless Cutters.

Your time and courtesy was greatly appreciated.

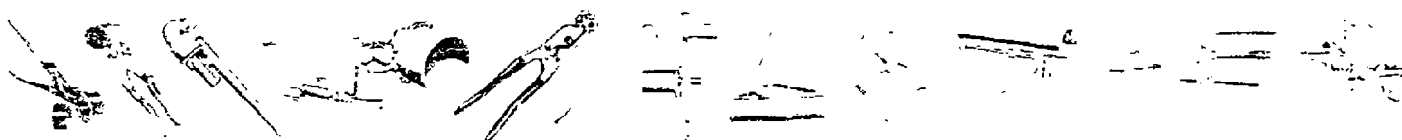
If there is anything else we at Wheeler can do for your people, please do not hesitate to ask.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Mazzola

Richard L. Mazzola
Sales Manager

RLM:cs



• WHEELER "SQUEEZE AND POP" PIPE CUTTERS AND LABOR SAVING TOOLS • WHEELER—PILOT PIPE TOOLS



MARKETING BULLETIN

CP-78-40

Division Headquarters
October 6, 1978

TO: ALL PIPE PERSONNEL

WHAT PIPE IS SAFE?

I am attaching a Health Facts bulletin put out by Hal Olson of the U.S. Pipe Division. Recently there have been television articles regarding the hazards of using asbestos based products and no doubt many of you are having questions put to you by your customers.

Hal has brought up several good points in this bulletin which should permit you to discuss the topic more knowledgeably. One interesting point he makes toward the end of the paper is that more work has been done on the use of asbestos cement pipe and it could be argued that it is now determined to be the least likely to represent a health hazard. This is a new approach and one worth putting forward.

J. F. SMALL

Health Facts



Johns-Manville

Pipe Products Marketing Division

September 21, 1978

WHAT PIPE IS SAFE?

The concern that is being generated about asbestos in water supply is increasing daily. A year ago it was rarely reported in the newspapers that utilities were questioning the use of A/C Pipe because of a suspected health hazard, but there were literally thousands of articles about the health hazards of airborne asbestos. Today there are many articles reporting that water utilities are expressing concern about the use of A/C Pipe. Emotional outbursts of uninformed citizens are reported, and once in print, such irresponsible statements often take on a quality of authenticity. When such emotion is generated, it frequently becomes politically expedient to abandon the use of A/C Pipe. It is for this reason that it is so important to inform responsible public officials about the facts before an emotional situation develops that gets the press and the citizens clamoring to ban A/C Pipe.

One would have to be deaf and blind not to be aware that asbestos has been designated as a carcinogen. The National Cancer Institute and the U.S. Dept. of HEW have recently been running spot T.V. commercials warning people who have worked with asbestos to consult their doctors. A recent T.V. documentary by Jules Bergman was devoted to the hazards associated with asbestos. Articles are still appearing in newspapers about asbestos sprayed ceilings in schools and other public buildings.

What is not so well publicized is the fact that what can be said about A/C Pipe as a possible health hazard can be said with equal force about the other commonly used water main materials.

1. All commonly used pipes can contribute minor amounts of carcinogenic materials to water supply:
 - a. Galvanized iron pipe can contribute cadmium lead and zinc to water.
 - b. PVC Pipe can release vinyl chloride monomer.
 - c. A/C Pipe when carrying very aggressive water, can impart asbestos to water.
 - d. Asphalt or coal tar lined iron or steel pipe can release polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons. (PAH's)

All of these are recognized carcinogens.

2. The amount of toxic material entering water supply from flowing through pipe is extremely minute, and there has been no data developed that would show any of these piping materials represents a health hazard
3. The EPA has studies underway at the present time investigating all of the above listed materials to measure the amount of carcinogens that can enter the water supply, and to evaluate their potential as a health hazard to the public who drinks the water.

At the 5th Annual Water Quality Technology Conference, sponsored by AWWA last December, two papers were presented by representatives of EPA. In their paper "Water Quality Deterioration in the Distribution System", it states, "To prevent corrosion of cast iron or steel pipes and to aid in the curing of cement lined pipes, the inside of such pipes may be lined with asphalt or coal-tar coatings. Depending upon conditions, temperature, thickness and age, during the production of these coatings polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) may be released. The solubility of most PAH's in water is relatively low; however, a number of representatives of the PAH's are known carcinogens..."

In a second paper "High Pressure Liquid Chromatography for the Measurement of Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Water", it states, "The level of these PAH's in drinking water becomes quite important when related to the health effect of the compounds, as some of the PAH's produce cancer in laboratory animals."

In "Drinking Water and Health", a report by the Safe Drinking Water Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, it recommends that strict limits of some PAH's be applied in drinking water standards.

In "Human Health and the Environment-Some Research Needs" (U.S. Dept. H.E.W. 1977) it states, "Methods capable of both quantitative and qualitative analysis should be developed to detect important classes of water borne organic toxicants, such as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons..."

From the above it can be seen that A/C Pipe is not alone in piping materials that can contribute a recognized carcinogen to water supply, and that the EPA recognizes this fact and is evaluating all pipes as potential health hazards.

A/C Pipe is however, unique in that more work has been done to try and evaluate asbestos in water supply as a health hazard than has been done to evaluate the dangers associated with PAH's, Vinyl Chloride Monomer, and Cadmium as found in potable water as a health hazard. All studies involving asbestos in water as a health hazard have proven negative.

Three such studies have been reported in the prestigious American Journal of Epidemiology:

1. An Investigation of the Use of A/C for Public Water Use and the Incidence of Gastrointestinal Cancer in Connecticut. Vo. 107 No. 2.
By J. Malcolm Harrington and Associates

"No association was noted between these asbestos risk scores and gastro-intestinal tumor incidence".

2. Investigating Possible Effects of Asbestos in City Water: Surveillance of Gastrointestinal Cancer Incidence in Duluth, Minnesota. Vol. 103 No. 4
By B.S. Levy and Associates

"Although some differences in G.I. Cancer incidence occurred among the three cities in 1969-1971, there was no consistent pattern of statistically significant differences observed".

3. Cancer Mortality and Asbestos Deposits Vol. 104 No. 5
By T.R. Fears

"The study of cancer mortality rates in these matched counties provides no evidence that naturally-occurring asbestos is a great hazard to the general population of counties with asbestos deposits".

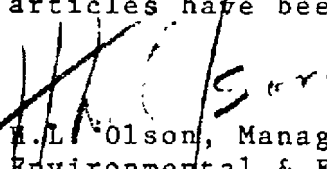
For several years, FDA has been conducting an extensive study on rats being fed 1% of their total diet as asbestos. Preliminary reports of this study also have not shown that ingested asbestos even in those massive amounts compared to that ingested with water (230,000,000 times the asbestos found in water), has resulted in an increased death rate in the rats attributable to asbestos ingestion.

HEALTH FACTS BULLETIN
Sept. 21, 1978

Page 4

I would presume that epidemiology studies would also indicate that PAH's as found in water supplies that flow through asphalt lined iron pipes are in such minute amounts that they too, do not increase the risk of cancer to those who drink the water; but to-date, I know of no such study that would confirm this. As a consequence, it could be argued that at this time, A/C pipe is the one piping material that has been determined to be the least likely to represent a health hazard.

Copies of the two papers by EPA reported in the Proceedings of the AWWA 5th Annual Water Quality Conference and referenced in this bulletin, have been sent to District Managers. Referenced American Journal of Epidemiology articles have been previously sent to District Managers.


H.L. Olson, Manager
Environmental & Engineering Developments
PIPE DIVISION

codes: 12
153
162
163
182
4422
5213
532-S
535-S

cc: D. Markusson 2-18
L. Sorrentino 1-06
W. McCallie 2-17

HLO:sw