



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

PLASTICS DEPARTMENT

CC: G. F. Hickey
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File D-13

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
DUP-2234

April 6, 1973

TO: R. D. SWEENEY
VICTORIA PLANT

FROM: D. D. FELAK *DD*
POLLY DRUMMOND #2

PROJECT 1295 - INCREASE ADIPIC ACID CAPACITY
GASKET REPLACEMENT

As you know, the availability of Blue African Asbestos (BAA) is fast becoming limited. BAA is currently specified as a spiral wound gasket filler in several plant pipe codes. To help obtain a suitable gasket replacement for P-1295, Design has acquired the service of G. F. Hickey, ESD Consultant, to provide assistance as needed.

Initial conversations with Hickey (see attached memo Reyne to Felak dated 3/26/73) resulted in the desire for additional plant test gasket installations similar to those currently being done by Acids Mechanical. Since it would be advantageous from a maintenance replacement standpoint to act promptly, I would like your help in obtaining someone at the plant to assist with this test program. In addition to field installations, accelerated laboratory testing is expected to be desirable.

In reference to the testing of G62 and G63 gaskets in cyane service, as mentioned on page 2 of the attached memo, I wish to search further before we initiate these tests. There is a possibility that testing along this line may have already been done at Belle or Sabine River Works.

DDF:rbw
Attach.

DUP 0827112



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WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

CC: H. L. Bowman
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ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

March 29, 1973

D. D. FELAK
POLYMER INTERMEDIATES DEPARTMENT
POLLY DRUMMOND BLDG. #2

PROJECT 1295 - VICTORIA - INCREASE ADIPIC ACID CAPACITY, ETC.
GASKET REPLACEMENT FOR BLUE AFRICAN ASBESTOS
SPIRAL WOUND GASKETS

As we have discussed, the availability of blue african asbestos gasket material with NBR binder has become almost nonexistent. This situation creates the need for us to find a suitable replacement for blue african asbestos spiral wound gaskets.

During our discussion with G. F. Hickey (ESD gasket consultant), the following facts became apparent:

1. The blue african asbestos gasket material has been used in the past because it comes standard with NBR binder. In addition, there are some indications that the blue african asbestos leaches far less iron into the process than the white asbestos.
2. Fire tests of sheet asbestos, sheet Teflon[®], spiral wound asbestos and spiral wound Teflon[®] gaskets indicate that the spiral wound asbestos gasket is best for protection against a gasket failure during fire. The sheet asbestos is second best. The Teflon[®] products did not maintain a satisfactory joint at flange temperatures much above 600°F.
3. The only spiral wound asbestos gasket in mass production at this time is the white asbestos filled gasket with SBR binder (G62, G63, etc.). There is a white asbestos sheet gasket made with NBR binder (G-40) which could be used to make a spiral wound gasket. However, these gaskets would be a special item, because the G-40 gasket material is compressed asbestos and spiral wound asbestos gaskets are

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D. D. Felak
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manufactured from felt asbestos. The main difference is that the compressed asbestos comes in sheets and the felt comes on a roll. The latter, facilitates the winding of the spiral gasket.

4. There are a few other gasket systems that probably will be satisfactory in our process streams and provide fire protection. However, all of these gaskets will cost at least two or three times the cost of a G62 gasket.

Based on this information, we agreed to pursue a testing program at the plant to determine if the standard white asbestos spiral wound gasket with SBR binder (G62, G63, etc.) is a satisfactory replacement.

This testing program should include long range testing of these gaskets in actual process lines and short range testing in an accelerated testing program. Based on the results of accelerated testing program, we can determine if any other gasket systems need to be evaluated.

DESIGN DIVISION

Matthew R. Reyne
M. R. Reyne
Process Engineer

MRR:bl

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