

Manville

Internal Correspondence

To R. Batson

From B. Lewis *Bud*

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Subject Use of Amosite and Crocidolite

Date March 30, 1988



Recently you requested information on the use of amosite and crocidolite as opposed to chrysotile. Specifically, you wanted to know how they were used, why they were used, and Manville's share of this market.

First, I'll cover the market share. Manville used in its own manufacturing operations approximately 25% of the chrysotile, 23% of the amosite, and 62% of the crocidolite consumed in the United States. Manville also supplied to other manufacturers 26% of the chrysotile consumed in the United States, but none of the amosite or crocidolite. The percentages may seem high considering Manville owned the largest chrysotile mine in the world, but these were reasons for using the other fiber types, which I will cover next.

I'll start with crocidolite. The vast majority of all crocidolite used in the U.S., both by Manville and other manufacturers, was for making asbestos cement pipe. Since Manville was the largest manufacturer of A/C pipe, it becomes easier to understand why Manville had such a large share of the crocidolite market. Crocidolite was simply superior to all other fibers in pipe manufacture. Attempts to replace it with chrysotile resulted in a poorer quality product and increased production costs.

Other uses of crocidolite were for chemical filters, acid resistant packings, and gas filters. It was almost never used in insulation/shipyard products, and I know of only one Manville product, Thermomix 810, which would fall into this category.

Amosite, on the other hand, was used primarily in insulation products, particularly in the lightweight insulations required by the Navy. Amosite's chief advantage is that it makes a stronger, lighter, more efficient insulation than a comparable product made from chrysotile. Amosite was also less expensive than comparable grades of chrysotile.

The question remains as to whether the Navy specifications were Manville's primary motivation for introducing amosite into its asbestos products. This clearly appears to be the case during the WWII era as Don has testified. The Navy's requirements for stronger, lighter, and more efficient insulations was a driving force behind Manville's experimentations to make improved products. One of the primary means for meeting these

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