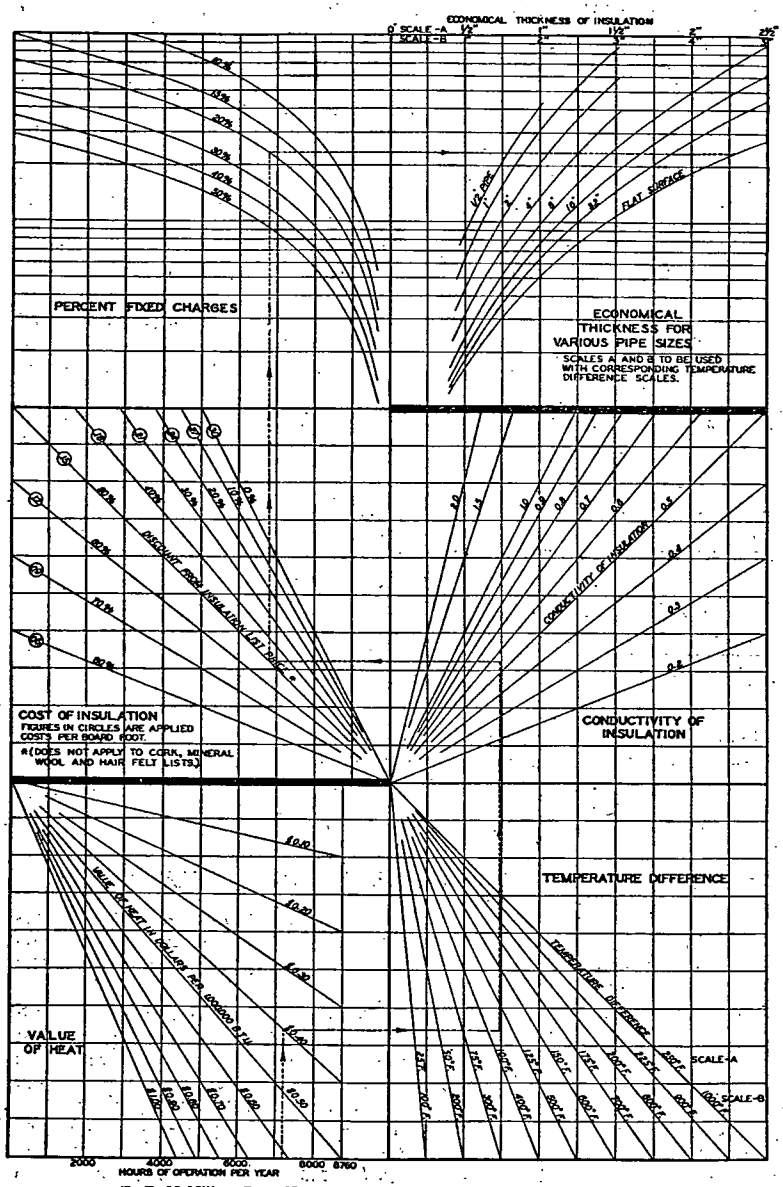


(L. B. McMillan, *Proc. National District Heating Association*, Vol. 18, p. 138).

FIG. 6. CHART FOR DETERMINING ECONOMICAL THICKNESS OF PIPE INSULATION

size; thence vertically to the scale at the top right margin where the economical thickness may be read off directly.

A rapid method for determining the economical thickness of insulation by use of tables has been published.[3]

UNDERGROUND PIPE INSULATION

Underground steam distribution lines are carried in protective structures of various types, sizes and shapes (see Chapter 28). Detailed data on commonly used forms of tunnels and conduit systems, have been published by the *National District Heating Association*.[3]

Pipes in tunnels are covered with sectional insulation to provide maximum thermal efficiency, and are also finished with good mechanical protection in the form of metal or waterproofing membrane outer jackets. In some instances, where actual submersion of hot lines may occur, it has been found good practice to firmly secure the covering with corrosion

TABLE 11. THICKNESS OF LOOSE INSULATION FOR USE AS FILL IN UNDERGROUND CONDUIT SYSTEMS

Steam Pressure Psig or Condition	Steam Temperature Fahrenheit Degrees	Minimum Thickness of Insulation in Inches					Minimum Distance Between Steam and Return
		Steam Lines			Return Lines		
		Pipes Less than 4 In.	Pipes 4 In. to 10 In.	Pipes Larger than 12 In.	Pipes Less than 4 In.	Pipes 4 In. and Larger	
Hot Water, or 0 to 25	212 to 267	1½	2	2½	1¼	1½	1
25 to 125	267 to 352	2	2½	3	1¼	1½	1¼
Above 125, or superheat	352 to 500	2½	3	3½	1¼	1½	1½

resistant wire, then sew on a wire-inserted asbestos fabric jacket with wire. This jacket is porous. The principle of withstanding submersion is that water may enter as water, then actually boil at the pipe surfaces and escape as steam without rupturing the insulation or jacket. Conduit systems are in more general use than tunnels. Pipes carried in conduits may be insulated with sectional insulation; however, the more usual practice is to fill the entire section of the conduit around the pipes with high quality, loose insulating material. The insulation must be kept dry at all times, and for this purpose effective waterproofing membranes enclose the insulation. A drainage system is also provided to divert water which may tend to enter the conduit.

The economical thickness of insulation for underground work is difficult to determine accurately due to the many variables which have to be considered. As a result of theories[4] previously developed, together with other experimental data which have been presented, the usual endeavor is to secure not less than 90 percent efficiency for underground piping. Table 11 can be used as a guide in arriving at the minimum thickness of loose insulation fills to use for laying out conduit systems. Other factors such as the number of pipes and their combination of sizes, as well as the standard conduit sizes, are primary controlling factors in the amount and thickness of insulation for use.

When sectional insulation is applied to lines in tunnels or conduits, usual practice is to apply the most efficient materials ½ in. less in thick-