

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE QUEBEC ASBESTOS MINING ASSOCIATION

HELD ON MARCH 28 AND 29, 1968,

AT THE GRAND BAHAMA HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB, G.B.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Present:

Messrs. W.W. Doughtred	M.P. Carson	J.R.M. Hutcheson
K.V. Lindell	D.T. Colton	J.A. D. Marcotte
J.A. Main	Y. Couture	R.N. Moore
R.J. Merrill	R. Dodds-Hebron	A.L. Penhale
M.J. Messel	J.W. Duncan	L. Piuze
P.A. Meyer	J.O. Eby	D. Poutiatine
F.P. Smith	A.R. Fisher	G.W. Smith
A.H. Bagenstose	W.H. Foster	G. Robinson
R.D. Bradford	G.C. Gabrielson	I. Sabourin
C.B. Burnett	R.P. Gagnon	Paul-A. Filteau
I.C. Campbell	N.W. Hendry	

The President Mr. W.W. Doughtred expressed words of welcome to Grand Bahama to members and guests and more specifically to Messrs. Fisher, Marcotte, Moore and Bagenstose.

Minutes of the meeting of January the 15th were adopted.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Two meetings of this committee have been held since the last special meeting.

1. The first point submitted by the Chairman was the Penetration Index Test which has been three years in development. A measure of the amenability of a sample of asbestos fibre to absorb oil is measured by this procedure by the ease of a ball to descend through a mixture of oil and fibre. On a motion duly seconded, the test procedure was adopted by the Directors.
2. To the request by the Directors for a scale of rates for drawings of apparatus, developed by Q.A.M.A. member companies, divergent views were expressed by the committee members. After a brief discussion, it was moved that there be no charge for said drawings. Adopted.
3. When the sampling procedure was tried by all parties (vendor and buyer) it was found inconvenient. A large pile of bags in storage could not be sampled without moving all the bags at an expense. To cover this condition a less rigorous method has been added to the procedure. There is however emphasis that for referee purposes, the original procedure be used.

This Committee wishes to suggest the additional method stay with the Q.A.M.A. and not go to A.S.T.M. or other associations.

4. The suggestion that the Manual of Testing Procedures be translated into French was placed before the Directors. It was decided to inquire if Eternit had already made a translation of the Manual (Mr. D. Poutiatine).
5. After a discussion of the motion regarding the printing of the word "Chrysotile" on fibre bags, motion which was vetoed at the (7th) Copant Meeting, it was

"moved that the word "Chrysotile be printed prominently on all bags going to Pan-American countries. Such printing is optional on bags going to other countries." Adopted.

3.

6. In view of the "zero" threshold limit placed on crocidolite dust exposure in Great Britain, it is deemed advisable that some words of caution be printed on fibre bags to release the producers from possible legal responsibility. Industry knows that it handles a hazardous material and the suggestion seems to meet with favorable consensus. The wording proposed is as follows:

"THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS ASBESTOS. INHALATION OF ASBESTOS DUST OVER LONG PERIODS MAY BE HARMFUL. EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO DUST DURING USE IN APPLICATION SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH ADEQUATE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE DEVICES".

The above to be checked by member company counsels and reviewed at the next meeting.

UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION AND GRADING COMMITTEE

1. Sherbrooke Laboratory

The purchase of equipment to carry out measuring of fibre length and diameters, using the method developed by the Department of Mines, will be completed by April 1st. Cost of equipment will be \$1,740.00. Two girls will be required to carry out the counting and measuring. (Included in 1968 budget.)

2. Fibre Inspector

An increase in salary for the Fibre Inspector from \$719.00 per month to \$754.00 per month, effective January 1, 1968 is proposed. This coincides with 1968 budget and with salary increases by Asbestos Corporation Limited. Adopted.

Some misunderstandings in regards to Q.S. Sampling were settled at a Committee meeting on March 7. These were: -

- (a) Experimental grades are to be sampled with the understanding that only a Q.S. test is to be performed.
 - (b) Only J.M. 4T-30 is to be hand pressed three times before conditioning, as normal, in the Asbestos Fibre Conditioner.
3. The purpose for reporting individual grades and tonnages of 7 Group fibres, on the "Monthly Shipping Report" made by all companies each month, was explained. It was shown that such detailed reporting eliminated a great many questions.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As reported by the Chairman, the report on Bausch and Lomb Dust Counter indicates that the November correlation tests were excellent, but that the January tests show very poor results. The machine has been returned for a check-up to the manufacturer. It may be that cold and humidity affect the results.

It is proposed to circulate to members of the committee various articles on the medical problem.

The noise surveys are continuing and the engineer is encouraged by the corrective steps. He suggests that we take further action on high frequency noises.

Moved that an increase in salary from \$800./mo. to \$850./mo. as of May 1, 1968, be granted to our Dust and Noise Engineer.

Adopted.

To replace the services formerly provided by Hall and Henshaw, it is moved that a safety engineer be hired on the staff of Q.A.M.A. Adopted.

As to Workmen's Compensation rates, you will be pleased to note that the mutual has dropped from 80¢ to 40¢ and changed from a deficit to a surplus of \$262,000. We are in a much better position, and possibly the mutual should be reduced next year.

The Provincial Labour Department and the Workmen's Compensation Commission, as a result of renewed representations from the Steelworkers Union, are again building pressure on industry in favor of a provincial accident prevention commission. A meeting of industrial accident prevention associations was called recently by the Minister of Labour for the object of discussing the future of said associations and the role of an eventual "Accident Prevention Commission.", a new Board which the Workmen's Compensation proposes and wishes the Government to establish.

The department claims that the regrouping of all inspection services under one head, would eliminate duplication of investigations, reports and time consuming discussions with employers. On the other hand, it was pointed out that the present quality of Mine Inspection Services could be diluted as a result of integration with other groups of inspectors and their loss of contact with the Department of Natural Resources. The latest news is that the Government is going ahead with the project.

The report from Dr. Letendre on the subject of a "Provincial Mining Fund" will soon be forwarded to all members. It is encouraging. He considers the federal regulations cover all angles except severance pay.

The General Manager reported on the suggestion of D.M.R.A. as to the possibility of an employer's group in Class 5 for W.C.C. submissions. There is some merit in this suggestion. The matter to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Labor negotiations at locations concerned are progressing somewhat slowly. Unions are seeking a one-year contract and looking towards eventual industry-wide bargaining.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

A. Ocean Rates

The Traffic Committee has been very active in the past few months endeavouring to settle rates for the ocean carriage of asbestos in the major trading areas for the coming season and several meetings have taken place.

Our efforts have been complicated by the stevedoring situation which exists at St. Lawrence River Ports where there was no labour contract and the prospects for a reasonable solution before the opening of navigation were doubtful. An agreement has fortunately been signed on March 26.

As of the time of writing, increases had been negotiated with the following conferences for the period April 1, 1968 - March 31, 1969:

- (1) Canada UK Conference - \$1.25 plus emergency surcharge if warranted;
- (2) Canada - Baltic Conference - as for U.K.;
- (3) Canada - Australia-New Zealand Conference - \$1.75 plus emergency surcharge if warranted.

Negotiations with the Canada Continental Conference have been protracted and difficult and it seems doubtful whether any settlement can be reached with them for less than \$2.00 per ton accompanied by some deterioration in service, particularly to France.

B. Inland Rates

The agreed charge rate to St. Lawrence River Ports was due to expire on March 31st, but by taking a firm stand the committee was successful in renewing on behalf of Q.A.M.A. the agreement for a period of one more year without any increase in the rate.

In anticipation of the shut down of St. Lawrence River Ports, a reduction in the rail rate of \$2.10 per ton to Halifax and St. John has been negotiated with both the CNR and CPR on a temporary emergency basis.

The question of the establishment of 120,000 lb. rates to Official Territory is being carried on our agenda, until a comparable proposal emanating from Canadian west coast origins has been approved.

LEGISLATION AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The Chairman stressed that taxes were going up faster than profits.

A 3% surcharge on corporation profits as part of the Federal Government's new tax measures will become effective April 1. As of this date also, the personal income tax surcharge of 5% in force since January 1, will drop to 3%.

The Provincial Government has made known March 27 in submitting its 1968 budget that a 6% personal income tax surcharge was to be made retroactive to January 1 and that the tax on gasoline and Diesel Oil were being increased by 3 cents as of March 28.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Chairman tabled the report submitted by the Association's PR Counsel. The President then briefly reviewed the main points, as follows:

- a) The inference that anti-separatist movements tentatively sponsored by business are to be led by French-speaking elements merely as a front, is unfounded.
- b) Increased automation may cause the unions to demand guaranteed annual wages.
- c) Premier Johnson might try to be more friendly with labour, should Trudeau and Marchand become the leaders in Ottawa; as a result industry could be affected.
- d) "The Producer" has been refreshed in appearance and content, with copy prepared by a French-language reporter.
- e) The work of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health should be made known with more diligence and so before the information is disseminated from outside-sources.

DUST ABATEMENT COMMITTEE

Reporting on progress to-date, the chairman stated that:

1. Roto-Clone Scrubber under test at C.J-M. should reduce to a tolerable level, the corrosion problems encountered with the conventional mild steel rotor.
2. The cloth collector is being installed at C.J-M. with completion scheduled for May 1st.
3. The new drying unit at C.J-M. will be equipped with either the Roto-Clone or the Wheelabrator dust collecting unit, depending on results of the current tests.
4. The Krebs cyclone for possible use in de-watering the Roto-Clone slimes has been investigated, and cannot be recommended as a solution to this recovery problem.
5. At Asbestos Corporation Limited a definite proposal for a 120,000 cfm electrostatic precipitation plant is under serious study. A 95% efficiency is guaranteed.
6. In order to inform members of new dust control improvements completed in certain plants, it was moved that the reports of surveys which the Dust Control Engineer submits periodically to individual member companies be circulated to all companies. Adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. By-Law No. 8

A By-Law to modify By-Law No. 7 governing the Trust Agreement concerning a Staff Pension Plan

WHEREAS By-Law Number 6, being a by-law governing the "Trust Agreement Concerning a Staff Pension Plan" was enacted on the 28th day of October 1963 and was modified by By-Law No. 7, enacted on the 12th day of December 1966;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the said By-Law Number 7 dealing with the "Termination of Service" requires to be further emended in order to conform with the Quebec Supplemental Pension Plans Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED AND IT IS HEREBY ENACTED as By-Law Number 8 of the Association as follows:

THAT the words "Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (c) above, it is provided that..." be deleted at the commencement of the last paragraph of Section 2 of the said By-Law Number 7 and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"Notwithstanding any provision in this Plan, it is provided that..."

Adopted.

2. CIM Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

As in past years, it was proposed that the Association contribute to the financing of social events of the meeting in the amount of \$500.00.

Adopted.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The economic situation is confused. In many cases, ratio of earnings to sales will likely be lower in 1968. Housing starts expected to be lower (1,350,000) than originally estimated.

Labour agreements are proving more expensive.

Fortunately, certain sectors are enjoying good business. It is to be hoped the U.S. will de-escalate in Vietnam, which would help balance the budget and stimulate the construction industry. Presently there is a shortage of mortgage financing. If war in Vietnam continues, there might be some severe belt tightening.

In Canada, the situation is somewhat parallel. Productivity is not increasing. In spite of the difficult fiscal problems, federal and provincial governments are not curtailing expenditures. It is hoped that the new Prime Minister will give strong leadership to the country.

REVISED DATES AND LOCATIONS OF MEETINGS

Following a poll of the members, it has been agreed to hold the meetings on a Tuesday instead of Monday. Consequently, the dates of the 1968 regular meetings are as follows:

May 28, July 30 and November 26, 1968.

N.B. - Date of May 28 subsequently changed to May 31.

The meetings will be held at the Bonaventure Hotel in Montreal.

Due to lack of space at the Seignior Club on dates requested, space has been reserved at the Castle Harbour Hotel, Bermuda from September 19 to 22 next.

The 1969 Winter Meeting is to be moved back to April 16-19, 1969.
Location is again Bermuda.

A tentative schedule of future special meetings to be prepared
for the next two or three years by the General Manager.

P.H. RIORDON

In a unanimous motion, it was proposed that the General Manager
convey to Mr. Riordon the best wishes of all for his prompt
recovery and his resumption of usual activities in due course.
The group is sorry he could not attend the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated.

Paul-A. Filteau,
General Manager
&
Secretary.