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June 21, 1977

Mr. James E. McCarthy
Industrial Indemnity
3255 Camino Del Rio South
San Diego, California 92138

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Your inquiry regarding tools that are safe and proper for cutting A/C pipe has been passed to me by Bill Reitze.

There are various tools produced that cut, machine, drill holes, and tap A/C. A common denominator of these tools is that they employ a carbide tipped blade that performs the cutting action. Two primary producers of tools of this type are Pilot Manufacturing Company and Reed Tool Company. Tools of this type have been tested for dust generating potential by Equitable Environmental Company, and all develop dust levels below OSHA permissable standards. I am attaching some xerox reproductions of Pilot literature so that you can get a better picture of these tools.

Pilot also produces a chain cutter that appears to have merit. This type of cutter has long been used to snap clay tile, but especially designed cutting wheels were necessary for snapping A/C pipe.

A third type of cutting machine has been used, but we do not recommend it as the dust generation is excessive. I refer to the abrasive disc wheel. Our installation guide which is now being revised refers to this tool with the provision dust masks are used. In Europe, I understand special disc cutters have been developed that supply a stream of water to the wheel so that dust control is achieved. I have not seen this type of equipment in the US. Our new installation guide will be more emphatic about discouraging the use of abrasive disc cutters.

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Mr. James E. McCarthy
June 23, 1977

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The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has recently completed and is preparing a Work Practice Manual for D/C pipe which complies with pertinent OSHA Excavation regulations. It is also the intent of the committee to suggest to OSHA that consideration be given to regulations pertinent to the handling of D/C pipe making reference to the AWWA Work Practice Manual.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call.

Very truly yours,

JOHNS-MANVILLE SALES CORPORATION

H. L. Olson, Manager
Environmental & Engineering Development

HLO:ew
Attachment

cc: W. D. Miller, Jr.
E. M. Fenner

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