

FILE NAME: Montello (MNT)

DATE: 1975 Mar

DOC#: MNT018

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Report of Calls & Interviews RE Dust Count & Technical Meeting Trips in TX and OK

REPORT OF CALL

Calidria ASBESTOS

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By B. L. Ingalls

Date 3/12-3/14/75

Full Name Montello, Inc.	Interviewed
Address Sand Springs, OK	Mr. Ken Campbell
Mfrs. of "Calidria" Asbestos Distributor	Mr. Harry Wyatt

OBSERVATIONS

A combined dust count and technical meeting trip was made in Texas and Oklahoma in the time period noted above. Both the SVB project and a number of other business problems were covered.

SVB PROJECT

The data available were discussed in detail with both Wyatt and Campbell. In essence the SEM and screening tests have shown that Flosal contains two distinct types of asbestos:

1. Large fibers up to several hundred microns long and around 1 μ in diameter.
2. Very fine well-opened material consisting of fibrils or fibers made up of only several fibrils.

Both of these ingredients made important contributions to performance under different field conditions. SVB is made up of approximately uniform fibers (and fiber bundles) moderately larger than the fine component in Flosal.

We are having great difficulty in coming up with a Calidria product that is generally competitive. Based on laboratory tests it has been found, however, that screening of Flosal removes some of the larger fibers and reduces performance substantially. Since many wells use shaker screens this could be an important sales point.

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Based on these discussions, the following short term course of action was agreed to:

1. UCC will provide copies of the SEM pictures and some additional screening plus Fann viscosity data on the screened fractions.
2. Montello will set up a field test at a well using a shaker screen. The mechanism of action of the laboratory and continuous shaker screening is quite different and laboratory results may not extrapolate to the field. UCC will participate in the field test and will make comparative dust count while SVB and Flosal are being handled.
3. UCC will check out three additional potential ways to improve SVB. These are a.) recycle of baghouse fines, b.) additional wet shearing with existing plant equipment, and c.) test the Manton-Gaulin Homogenizer as a different type of high shear equipment.

SHRINK-FILMED SUPERVISBESTOS

The first CL of shrink-filmed Supervisbestos was examined in the Davis Mud Company warehouse in Woodward, OK. A dust count was made while around 100 bags were loaded into a truck and then unloaded back into the warehouse to simulate delivery on location. The highest asbestos count obtained was 0.6 fiber/cc. This is a ceiling value.

Visual observation of the bags indicates they were in excellent condition. The film was generally quite tight around the bag with only small amounts of asbestos between the film and the bag. There was occasionally a small hole in the film. The bags did not leak asbestos or appear to give off significant dust when handled or thrown.

The man who unloaded the rail car reported that there was no visible asbestos on the floor and they did not even have to sweep out the car. He also noted that there were a dozen or two bags that were not shrink-filmed but were loosely enclosed in a plastic overwrap bag. Examination showed that these had considerably more loose asbestos inside the bag and were somewhat difficult to handle. It is assumed that this was done to complete a load when the shrink film machine was out of order. This is certainly a reasonable solution but should be avoided wherever practical.

Dust counts were also made at two rigs where the shrink-filmed Supervisbestos was dumped into the mud. The highest asbestos count found was 1.8 fibers/cc. This is a ceiling count.

MAGOBAR OIL-BASED MUD

In response to Mr. Campbell's questions the current status was presented as:

1. Dresser was scheduled to run a field test the first week in March. We had not heard whether this had been run.
2. In spite of Cecil Haley's comments to the contrary, as far as we knew Magobar intended to buy SVB through Montello and make their own silane treated material.

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AEC - Mesa

This operation under another name has been awarded funds and a series of underground shots are planned starting in June 75. Our asbestos-bentonite mix is the prescribed mud for post-shot hot holes and they expect to use about 500 tons in a 12-14 month period following June.

OIL CENTER RESEARCH - (Gilbert Gossan - 318-232-2396)

Mr. Campbell had contacted them on March 10. The HPO had been tested, performed very well, and apparently has been selected for the formulation. (The crushed SVB did not work and arrangements have been made to return it to Montello).

OCR has been disappointed in the slowness of their market growth. They do feel, however, that they have a good product and are pushing.

It was reaffirmed that Montello would get 10% discount off list on HPO and that they could buy it at the CL price in combination with SVB.

SHELL OIL DUST COUNTS

Shell Oil Company has provided a copy of both their own fiber counts with crushed SVB and the "joint" counts with granular SVB. On the granular material the Shell counts ranged from 0.6 to 6.4 fibers/cc. The comparison UCC counts ranged from 0.7 to 8.3 fibers/cc. Agreement between specific counts ranged from excellent to different by a factor of 2-3. The differences were random, i.e. one laboratory was not constantly high or low. Overall the spread is really about as what would be expected considering the field conditions under which the samples were collected.

The only count over 10 fibers occurred with the granular SVB for the man who was catching the thrown sacks. The limited tests run did not show any difference between crushed and granular SVB with, if anything, the crushed giving lower results. This merely illustrates the importance in the way the bag is handled in influencing the airborne dust level.

Shell calculated 8 hr. TWA values assuming a background level of 0.2 fibers/cc. The values ranged from 0.20 to 0.43 with most not far from the background.

OSHA PROBLEM - Lubbock Office

The uniformity ruling from the Dallas office has not yet be received. Lubbock continues to overenforce. The drilling contractor where we were scheduled to count on two rigs had been visited in the last few days and SVB had been noted on the premises. They were told that the next time they visited, if masks were not available and being used for handling asbestos, they would shut the rig down on-the-spot. It costs about \$3000 a day for a rig so nobody wants to take chances.

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OSHA PROBLEM - Lubbock Office (Cont'd.)

As of March 14, Davis Mud Company, the Montello distributor had provided throw-away masks to this location and SVB was back in use.

After restraining my impulse to go down to Lubbock and pound on the desk, an approach was worked out with Montello. They will continue to push to get the uniformity ruling. Assuming it is favorable, they will take the new package, the dust counts, the Utah "in compliance" and the ruling and make a "sales" call on the Lubbock OSHA office in the very true stance of a confused and injured small business asking for clarification. Hopefully, some sort of mutually agreeable ground rules can be worked out.

Typed 4/15/75
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