

NPAVB

28 JAN 1955

Mr. A. J. Steiner
Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.
207 East Ohio Street
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Steiner:

Mr. Larabee of your Seattle office was recently contacted by Mr. Wardie W. King, Chief of Safety Branch of this office, regarding installed foam fire protection systems. Mr. Larabee suggested that this office contact you direct regarding the subject.

The Alaska District has supervised the design and construction of various petroleum storage facilities at military installations in Alaska for the handling of diesel fuel, motor gasolines, aviation gasolines and jet fuel. For fire protection, reliance has been placed on various combinations of airfoam systems. Part of these systems are serviced by mobile foam trucks with connection to hydrants outside the tank area, while others are provided with a central foam house. These systems have considerable lengths of uninsulated and unheated steel pipeline for the water and airfoam mixture, and foam chambers and foam makers will frequently be exposed as low as -50° Fahrenheit.

It has become apparent that there is a scarcity of information and data on the subject, and this office contemplates conducting tests this winter in an attempt to resolve some of the questions concerning the effect of extremely cold temperatures on the functioning of exposed airfoam systems.

This office would greatly appreciate your comments on the above-mentioned systems and your suggestions as to what steps should be taken to adequately test the operation of airfoam systems of this scope under the temperatures encountered, and any other information or data you care to furnish regarding the effectiveness of foam systems in below freezing temperatures.

FOR THE ACTING DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Very truly yours,

J. G. HADZIMA
Captain, CE
Executive

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cc Safety Br