

OFFICE MEMORANDUM



MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HIGHWAYS

October 8, 1970

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To: L. T. Oehler
Engineer of Research

From: A. R. Gabel

Subject: Paint Peeling on Pressure-Treated Posts: Test Correction by Substituting DuPont "Lucite" Latex for MDSH No. 6B White Paint. Research Project 62 G-114. Research Report No. R-752.

In accordance with P. J. Marek's memo to R. L. Greenman of May 15, 1970 requesting information on subject substitution, eight posts of the existing installation on westbound M 78, near Mt. Hope Rd were alternately painted with Lucite and No. 6B white (Department standard for this usage). The posts were stamped on the top with an "S" to identify the No. 6B and with an "L" for the Lucite.

Eight more posts (Fig. 1) on Lansing-bound M 78 west of Mt. Hope Rd were painted and identified in the same manner. The posts selected for painting had been in service for some time (road built in 1953) and the existing paint was generally thick, cracked, and partially flaked off. Each post was scraped to remove the loose paint, then sanded with coarse sandpaper to provide a good base for painting. It was estimated that 20 to 35 percent of tightly adhered old paint remained on the test posts.

One-coat paint application was made on September 21, 1970 when the temperature was in the mid-eighties with a strong breeze, which no doubt accounted for a dry-to-touch time of 10 minutes for the Lucite. The No. 6B was still very tacky after one hour and it was estimated that three to four hours would be required for a tack or dust-free surface.

Brushability was better on the Lucite and the hiding power was equal to that of the No. 6B white. The black caps were applied on September 25, 1970 as a touch-up for the old, using the standard No. 17A black paint. Figure 2 shows an overall view of this installation.

Periodic inspections will be made to evaluate comparative performance. In addition, we will endeavor to follow the performance of the coatings on posts in Luce County painted lately by C. J. Lavender. His alleged success was reported to the Department and is responsible for this study.

TESTING AND RESEARCH DIVISION



Chemist
Coatings, Sealers, and Plastics Group

Figure 1. Location of test guardrail posts.

Figure 2. Eight guardrail posts alternately painted with Latex or standard paint. The posts at right and extreme left are outside the paint test area (Lansing-bound US 27, M 78, at Mt. Hope Rd).

