

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHRYSOTILE
MAY 23-24, 2006
MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

CHRYSOTILE: Still alive in the U.S.A.

Bob J. Pigg
President

Asbestos Information Association / North America

ABSTRACT

AIA/NA has represented the asbestos industry in North America for some 35 years. Asbestos has been used commercially in the U.S.A. for over 100 years. Huge quantities of chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite were used in many products until the mid-1970's. A number of events, especially the mushrooming number of third party asbestos liability lawsuits, public outcry for removal of asbestos from building and an attempt by the U.S. EPA to ban asbestos products, caused the rapid and steady decline in usage of asbestos. The asbestos litigation crisis continues and has resulted in the bankruptcy of about 80 companies. Despite the foregoing, chrysotile is still used today in the manufacture of several products and there is no asbestos ban in the United States.