

September 16, 1976

PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

39060

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SRS-32

TO: #151, T. E. Nevins  
FROM: #151, E. Maynard  
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
Joint Systems

CC: #147-2, C. M. Howard  
#147-2, R. P. Entz  
#143-2, B. M. Hostrup

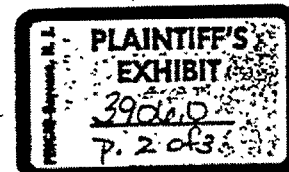
CCPD

- 1) The improved READY-MIX TAPING COMPOUND performed well on all field tests. This was confirmed in a recent letter from Mr. Ries. East Chicago has converted all production to the new formula, which is expected to correct current market problems at no cost increase.
- 2) At the request of Purchasing, <sup>Research in</sup> we are evaluating several grades of Tylose thickener in place of Dow's Methocel. Tests look good in READY-MIX TOPPING with a high viscosity grade, and ~~we plan to~~ <sup>it is planned</sup> ~~bulletin Tylose for Gypsum and East Chicago in this product for~~ <sup>will be</sup> ~~used in~~ <sup>substantial cost savings.</sup> ~~trials. We also plan to evaluate Tylose in Dallas' READY-MIX ALL-PURPOSE and TOPPING.~~
- 3) The cause of cracking on the East Chicago batch of the new formula of USG TOPPING - NV has not been determined. Further work is planned on this.
- 4) Further work is underway on evaluation of HI-BOND, and in general, what is needed to overcome problems and regain business in the Denver market.

SCPD

- 1) Messrs. Cameron and Knudsen are field testing the modified READY-MIX ALL-PURPOSE and the powder USG ALL-PURPOSE and TOPPING this week in Texas. The filler in these formulas is composed of 80% Mikrofil carbonate and 20% terra alba. This is in line with their plan to convert to bulk carbonate instead of bulk terra alba. Lab. tests are underway here on this.
- 2) Field tests were observed last week of the lower shrinkage READY-MIX TOPPING made at Dallas. Everyone who applied it found the workability excellent. ~~Mr. Cameron plans to send this to Denver also.~~ Dallas reported their READY-MIX TOPPING business has increased 200% since the new, easy sanding formula was introduced there early this year.
- 3) SCPD Marketing (R. Young), reported widespread problems with excessive shrinkage on metal corner bead with READY-MIX ALL-PURPOSE in Richmond, Atlanta, Jacksonville and Miami. He asked for Research assistance in investigating this problem. Mr. Attard will do this on a trip already scheduled for Chamblee as shown next in item #4. He will go to Richmond next Monday and be at Chamblee on Wednesday for the plant trial.

UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY



- 4) Development was completed on an improved READY-MIX TOPPING having superior texturing properties compared with Chamblee's current READY-MIX ALL-PURPOSE and TOPPING. Messrs. Howard and Young are requesting this to meet demands for a better texturing product primarily from the Atlanta Sales District. Mr. Attard will be at Chamblee next week for the plant trial and job tests.

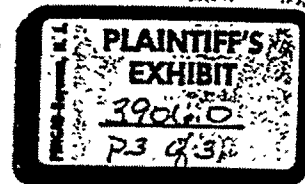
ECPD

- 1) The investigation of the complaint in Washington, D.C. on excessive shrinkage on screw heads in a large hospital under construction continues. The cost was estimated in the vicinity of \$10,000. Mr. Houman brought plant retain samples of READY-MIX back to Research and is continuing lab tests here in an effort to pinpoint the cause of the problem. Tests are underway on this.
- 2) Following the shrinkage complaint investigation in Washington, Mr. Houman went to New Brighton to resolve the conflict between our lab. tests and the plant tests on the new non-asbestos DURABOND. He showed that a lab made sample did not lump excessively when mixed, but the plant made batch did. His further investigation showed that a slightly different grade of thickener had been used in the plant batch. Another batch of DURABOND was made with the proper grade and field tested successfully in Pennsylvania. New Brighton will convert to this formula.
- 3) Start-up at Port Reading is anticipated before October 1.

WCPD

- 1) A new problem came to South Gate this week. Plaster City is unable to supply terra alba filler to them due to water damage on their equipment. We are evaluating both Southard terra alba and MW325 carbonate (from Victorville, California) to prevent a shut-down at South Gate.
- 2) South Gate is keeping the remaining terra alba supply for the new READY-MIX ALL-PURPOSE that was recently field tested successfully and released to So. California and Arizona.

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CGC

- 1) CGC Purchasing reported that Carey-Canadian will supply all of the plant's requirements for asbestos next year, following Research approval of 7RF66 and 7RF9 grades in joint compound formulas there. Samples are enroute to Research.
- 2) Mr. Mac Lennan indicated the start-up date for Calgary to be October 4. However, there is no report on a permit from the Alberta province.
- 3) Montreal has encountered further problems with skins or seeds with Stein-Hall latex, and they again requested Research assistance. Mr. Larson is investigating this and will go there to provide assistance if necessary.

*E. Maynard*

EM/net

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