AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY
CENTRAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J., 07080

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May 2, 1973
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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
ASA-213

Mr. R. P. Gagnon
B L A C K L A K E

Technical Call Report

Call: Capco, Van Buren, Arkansas

By: C. E. Stiefken

Date: April 26 - 27, 1973

Talked to: Davis Weaver, President
Sibley Thomas, Manager
Paul Cooper, Superintendant
Cecil Clark, A-C Superintendant
Lin Roberts, Q. C. Supervisor

Davis Weaver has again informed me that the following are estimated fiber requirements for both the Ragland and Van Buren plants through 1973:

	4T-3	SR-3
Van Buren	400-430 ST/MO	35-40 ST/MO
Ragland	400-430 "	0
Total, remaining 8 mos.	3200-3400ST	300ST

The new manager, Sib Thomas, is the former short-term plant engineer, and although he has an engineering degree, his knowledge of fiber and cement and his experience in asbestos cement processing is limited at this time. He is however, technically oriented, and I have the impression that he is capable of absorbing the requirements of the job.

Paul Cooper was the former Plant Accountant at Van Buren and is learning about fiber and cement. I do not know how much he understands about asbestos cement production.

Cecil Clark, purely a production man, controls the process, but is also only beginning to learn the technical aspects of the job.

Lin Roberts is in charge of the laboratory and aside from Davis Weaver, appears to have best chemical background among the staff members.

At the time of my visit I discussed the following major items with the staff:

a) The laboratory control Sag Test and its correllation with green pipe strength and ultimate pipe strength.
b) Cement chemistry
   1) oxides
   2) phase compounds (C_3S, C_2S, C_3A, C_4AF)
   3) gypsum
   4) loss on ignition
c) Importance of cement standardization and the adhering by cement producers to specifications
d) Asbestos fiber
   1) grades and classifications
   2) crudy and open fibers
   3) fiberizing and surface area
   4) physical testing
e) Process problems
   1) slurry suspension in the cylinder vats
   2) slurry dewatering
   3) green pipe strength

I expect to make a return visit to both the Van Buren and Ragland plants in about two months.

C. E. Stiefken

CES:rg
cc: EAFarrell
MJMessel