PB91-131375

# Industrial Hygiene Walk-Through Report at Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company, Van Horne, Texas

National Inst. for Occupational Safety and Health, Cincinnati, OH

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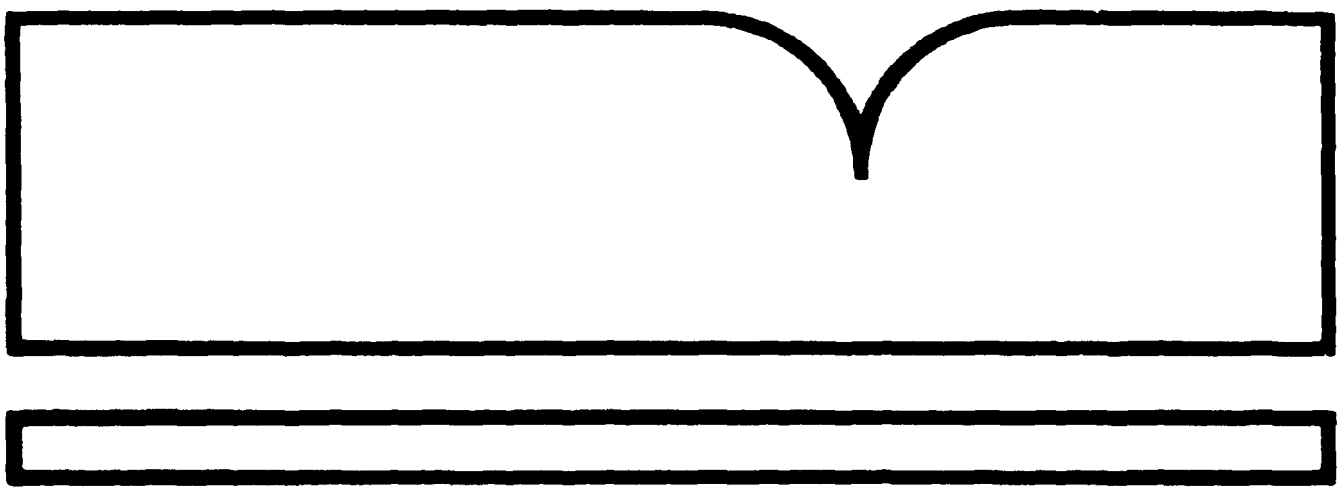

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15. Supplementary Notes

16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words): A visit was made to the Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company Loyce Fine Mine, Van Horn, Texas for the purpose of gathering data to characterize hazards in the talc mining and milling industry. Loyce Fine Mine started mining operations in 1965 as a subsidiary of Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company. There were six employees at the site at the time of the survey. Mining operations were open pit using bench/quarry techniques. From 50 to 100 tons of ore was hauled per day. Potential dust hazards from roadways and the crushing process were noted. Records were complete including social security numbers and work histories. The author recommends that roadways to and from the mine be wetted down or graded on a regular basis to help eliminate excessive dust, that respirators be used by all employees working in dusty areas, and that NIOSH approved dust respirators be used during dusty operations.

17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors

b. Identifiers/Open-Ended Terms: NIOSH-Publication, NIOSH-Author, NIOSH-Survey, Field-Study, IWS-036-17, Region-6, Dust-control, Airborne-dusts, Mineral-dusts, Mining-industry, Miners

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE WALK-THROUGH REPORT PB91-131375

PLANT NAME: Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company (Loyce Fine Mine)

LOCATION: Van Horn, Texas

PURPOSE: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in cooperation with the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) has underway a preliminary study of the talc mining and milling industry. As part of this study, NISOH is conducting walk-through surveys to compile necessary data in an effort to characterize talc composition in the U.S.

NIOSH PERSONNEL: Paul L. Johnson

PLANT HISTORY AND PROCESS:

Loyce Fine Mine started mining operations in 1965 as a subsidiary of Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company. The plant is located on a 20 acre site 10 miles west of Van Horn, Texas. There are 6 employees working one 8-hour shift, five days per week. Mining operations are open-pit using bench-quarry techniques.

Blasting preparation consists of drilling, 2 to 20 holes, 10 to 30 ft. deep by a self-propelled track drill. To each hole is added nitrogen fertilizer, one stick of 60% dynamite, a primer cord, and dirt packing. Raw ore from the blast is hauled to stockpiles for primary crushing. Ore extraction hauled per day ranges from 50 to 100 tons. Primary crushed products are shipped by rail in bulk quantities for further milling. Finished products which have been "fine" milled are used chiefly for ceramics.

HEALTH HAZARDS: Potential dust hazards from roadways and crushing process.

PERSONNEL RECORDS:

Records are complete including Social Security numbers and work histories. Active records are kept at both Los Angeles, California and Van Horn, Texas.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Roadways to and from the mine should be wetted down or graded on a regular basis to help eliminate excessive dust.

2. Respirators should be used by all employees working in dusty areas.

3. The Willson Dust Guard filter #R670, 8D or DG8 is not adequate for controlling talc dust particles. It is recommended that NIOSH approved dust-respirators be used during dusty operations.