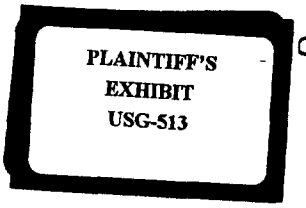
H 2

April 22, 1976

TO: T. E. Nevins

FROM: E. Maynard

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
JOINT SYSTEMS



CC: B. M. Hostrup - #170-5
C. M. Howard - #147-2

CCPD

1. Field tests of the non-asbestos READY MIX TOPPING made at East Chicago have been postponed until next week. The tests will be in the Chicago area and W. C. Anderson will follow them.

2. An interrogatory was sent to Mr. Duffy from the Attorney General's office for the State of Minnesota concerning USG's compliance with the state law on asbestos in joint compounds sold or used there. Joint compounds are shipped to Minnesota from the East Chicago plant. All powder joint compounds are non-asbestos (USG TOPPING released in 1972, USG TAPING in 1973 and USG ALL PURPOSE in early 1974). READY MIX ALL PURPOSE and TOPPING still contain asbestos however.

   An acceptable non-asbestos READY MIX was developed in 1973, but raw material cost was high. Marketing requested that development continue until a non-asbestos formula could be released without cost increase. New Brighton was bulletined in May 1975 at no cost increase, but to make this formula at East Chicago (MIDWAY) would increase their cost.

   In May, 1975, East Chicago (and Gypsum) were bulletined for both non-asbestos READY MIX ALL PURPOSE and TOPPING. Though the cost was still somewhat higher than their asbestos READY MIX, Research could see no way of reducing raw material cost further without an acceptable terra alba filler at East Chicago. Dept. #147-2 requested these non-asbestos formulas to be bulletined in May, 1975 for use by CCPD in emergency or where non-asbestos products are specified. They were field tested, but none sold as far as we know. Operating Dept. is still attempting to get terra alba for East Chicago.

3. East Chicago made further modifications this week on the Raymond air separator and improved the filler quality to 89-92% through a 325 mesh and 100% through 60 mesh. A sample will come to Research for confirmation.

USG 1003.1445