Mr. G. C. Meek
Pittsburgh Office

PRA

ALCOA ALUMINUM

ALCOA
FIRST IN ALUMINUM
ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA
1501 Alcoa Bldg. · Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

NEWS RELEASE

For Further Information: Gordon C. Meek ATlantic 1-4545, Ext. 465

For release in morning newspapers dated Thursday, December 18, 1958, or at anytime thereafter

Ft. Comfort Works

POINT COMFORT, TEXAS, Dec. 18, 1958 -- Aluminum Company of America today announced that initial operations at its newest and largest alumina refining plant have been scheduled to start February 1.

Works Manager A. B. Kaltwasser said that while the new Point Comfort plant is still incomplete, and will remain under construction through the greater part of 1959, sufficient equipment has been installed to begin "shakedown" operations.

During January, Mr. Kaltwasser said, Alcoa plans to man the start-up of alumina operations with 150 employees laid off when the company's Point Comfort smelting operations were reduced several months ago. Supervisory and office people for the new plant already are employed and at work.

Mr. Kaltwasser added that when the new alumina refining plant is in full operation it will have an annual capacity of one-million tons and will provide jobs for more than 600 people. The operation's ultimate cost will be in excess of $45 million, and the plant is so designed as to make possible a future doubling of its capacity.

RECEIVED
DEC 18 1958
G. C. Me

(More)

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
AL-514

APC 005367

The refining operation is equipped to process two distinct types of bauxite ore -- one from Suriname, South America, and the other from new Alcoa mining operations in the Dominican Republic.

The first ship loads of bauxite will be of South American origin and are due at Alcoa's new Aransas Pass transfer station, near the Gulf fishing resort of Port Aransas, about January 12. The ore then will be transshipped by barge 70 miles through the Intracoastal Canal and the shallow waters of Matagorda Bay, to the new refining plant at Point Comfort.

Dominican bauxite will be handled in the same manner, with first deliveries to the transfer station scheduled for late January.

Mr. Kaltwasser noted that the Aransas Pass transfer operation is a temporary expediency, to be continued only until completion of the deepwater Matagorda Bay Ship Channel, authorized by Congress this year.

Data for the design phase of the Matagorda Channel now is being gathered by the Calhoun County Navigation District engineers. Meanwhile, the District has completed a 13-foot contributory channel, which follows the Matagorda Ship Channel route from the Intracoastal Canal to Alcoa's Point Comfort docks.

# # # #