PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
WRG 1397

March 22, 1963

R. A. Bleich — Libby

E. D. Lovick — Libby

Trip Report - W. S. U.

On Monday morning Don Rovig and I left Libby for Pullman, Washington, for the regular monthly call at the Industrial Research Division.

In route down we stopped in Spokane to call on Mr. Carl Sandburg, Spokane manager of the Traveler Insurance to discuss two insurance problems we have - namely these of Jim Stephenson and Clifford Clark.

We then went on to Pullman where we spent all day Tuesday and a portion of Wednesday morning with Mr. John Joekel concerning the Tremolite research work he has been doing. Don had him repeat some of his more successful tests so he would be thoroughly familiar with them so they could be checked in our laboratory. The progress being made seems to be steady but by no means phenomenal. Then before leaving Don had him run cell tests in smaller range table maidlings. The tests were run down to -28 mesh size. Joekel is to continue work in the finer size ranges and go to down to 48 mesh to check results. While in Pullman I tried to see Dr. Kieth Farrell at the request of Dave Robinson. Dr. Farrell had written requested information on verxite. However, he was away on a trip this week.

In route home we stopped at the J. R. Simplot Company, Mirocel Plant near Bovil, Idaho to inquire as to the avail ability of a Bird centrifuge they were known to have. On a prior visit this machine, which is the same size as the one in our pilot mill was standing idle. However, they have now made some changes in their trouble plogued mill and it will now be incorporated in their circuit which is scheduled to begin operation April 8, 1963.

A word about this plant. They apparently have invested opproximately $1½ million in the plant and for all practical purposes have produced no saleable products. It was intended to produce clays, mica and silica, with clays to be the principal and most valuable product. The product produced was apparently produced at a cost above selling price and was a product which did not meet market specifications. By opening up a new pit and making certain changes in their circuit. They now believe they will have these basic problems solved. However, it is obvious that they have such a pile of money in here to get to this stage, if they are there. While we were told they intended to again begin running April 8, 1963, we were invited back to see the plant in operation and it was suggested we come in 2 to 3 months.

Sincerely

EDLovick/dao

c.c. A. D. Rovig