KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO G. B. Kirk
AT Oakland

DATE May 28, 1974

TVS

COPIES TO J. W. Blewett, C. B. Lafayette, C. E. Caprye, C. E. Watson, H. C. Dupuis

FROM T. V. Smith
AT Antioch R & D

SUBJECT SEATTLE TRIP REPORT

During the week of 5-20-74 the writer visited the Seattle plant and worked with Trig Ambjor in the field.

On Monday, 5-20-74, a batch of Premix Topping Compound was manufactured on a revision to a non-asbestos, raw gypsum formulation. The lab quality control test indicated standard performance and the batch was released to sales for field testing.

A batch of Premix Dual Purpose made with Keltose and Dowicil gave a lower water demand but was free from lumps and appeared to have standard performance. A final water level of 235 gallons was obtained whereas the normal level should be at 255 to 260 gallons. Further testing will be done at Antioch on these batches and the results reported at a later date.

Two batches of K-Spray were made to confirm the styrene usage. We found the first batch to be slightly high in density and the second to be in the specification range. The water demand for both batches was satisfactory. It was decided to field test the second batch, which also contained the coarser aggregate.

The revision to the grinder to increase the size indicated an improvement changing the screening from a 40-60% on an 8 and 30 mesh to a 52-48% on an 8 to 30 mesh. We recommended that the slow cutter be increased to 100 to 125 RPM and a screening run on the grind from this increased speed.

On Tuesday, 5-21-74, Trig Ambjor had a demonstration at Innis Glen Condominimum in Belleview, Washington. This work is being done by the Tyler Taping Company and they are currently using Beadex Taping Compound and finishing with Kaiser Topping Compound. The applicator using the new Topping Compound gave us very favorable comments on the workability of the product. We checked back again on Wednesday and Thursday and another applicator had similar comments on the Topping Compound.

We proceeded to two other jobs in Woodinville and Edmonds where we observed jobs which had been done with Kaiser Dual Purpose (raw gypsum) and Topping Compound. Again the comments from the applicators for Ernie Riddley and Bob Durphy were very favorable.

A meeting was held at the Cal Snip yard. We discussed the recent field testing of K-Spray with Jim Stark and Bill Snip. Bill commented that our product was too easy to pump and, therefore, was more difficult for ordinary applicators to control. We indicated that we would be able to retest with him during the week of June 3rd. He would give us further comments on the next batches he tested for us. Bill has had prior experience with Hamilton and his comments and suggestions will be very useful to us.

On Wednesday we met with Vern Nelson of Nelson Construction Company in Kent, Washington. Since Vern had material in his tanks he agreed to run our K-Spray test on Thursday morning. We observed the K-Spray demonstration on Thursday, which was a large single story ranch house. Material mixed and worked well through the Spray King equipment which uses stator tube pumps. The applicator commented that the material felt different from Hamilton and found a couple of areas where he claimed it would slide. The material coverage and pattern was excellent. This application was on the heavy side and they thought that it might check crack. Trig reported today that this job dried down very well and was free of discoloration at joints and did not check crack.

Recommendations:

1) Continue to field test Premix Topping Compound on the raw gypsum, non-asbestos formula.

2) Extend field testing to Cal Snip Company, but release the current formula for general sales to other accounts.

3) Increase the speed of the slow cutter to 100 to 125 RPM for increased aggregate size.

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