

FILE NAME: National Gypsum (NG)

DATE: 1956 July 5

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to NG from Laverack & Haines, Inc. with
Conclusions & Observations RE Atmospheric Tests

July 5, 1936

National Gypsum Company
325 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, New York

Attention: Mr. M. C. M. Pollard

Gentlemen:

As you requested we give below the conclusions and observations as a result of the series of atmospheric tests made in the vicinity of your Ballafonte, Pa. plant.

A total of 54 air samples, over an intermittent period covering six separate days, gave consistent and logical results.

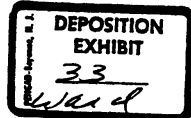
The most unfavorable wind direction, of course, would be from the west-southwest, and this was accomplished on March 29th, 1936.

However, all of the tests were of considerable value in determining atmospheric conditions in the city of Ballafonte when wind direction made contributions by your plant an impossibility.

There is no question but that much dust is emitted into the air by your plant operations, as evidenced by the count of Test No. 2 on the morning of March 29th, when the wind was from the southeast. Even with some snow and rain the count was 11,080,000 particles per cubic foot of air.

Distance from the plant, however, permitted the dust to settle quite rapidly, as the tests on the afternoon of the same day, with the wind now blowing steadily from the southwest, indicated. The drop from 2,156,000 particles on Test No. 3, to 1,232,000 particles on Test No. 4, to 1,152,000 particles on Test No. 5 seems quite conclusive.

The increase in count in the city of Ballafonte is explained by the addition of dust created by operations in the city itself.



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That these sources exist is quite evident by the tests of March 27th, when a count of 2,000,000 particles in Test No. 3 and 1,888,000 particles in Test No. 5, with a wind blowing from the town toward the plant, and the tests on May 25th, when counts of 2,288,000, 5,160,000, 7,120,000, and 3,080,000 particles within the city were read, and wind velocity so low and variable that transport from your plant would have been impossible.

The only conclusion that can be arrived at in the writer's opinion, is that, though your plant is emitting dust in rather high concentrations, fall-out and dilution bring the concentration down to a negligible amount.

On the other hand, the tests indicate that the city does have objectionable concentrations at times, but the source of the dust is within the city itself.

The writer would recommend, however, that dust control at the plant would be extremely desirable for the personnel working there. The medical profession is leaning more and more to the opinion that any dust, no matter how innocuous, can be harmful. So it could present a health problem, too.

Hoping this summary is helpful, we remain,

Very truly yours,

LAVERACK & HAINES, INC.

A. B. HOPTIKER
Safety Director

abh.:jl

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