

## INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE WALK-THROUGH REPORT

PLANT NAME: Southern Clay Products Inc. (Garren Mine #2)

LOCATION: Allamore, Texas

PURPOSE: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in cooperation with the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) has underway a preliminary study of the talc mining and milling industry. As part of this study, NIOSH is conducting walk-through surveys to compile necessary data in an effort to characterize talc composition in the U.S.

NIOSH PERSONNEL: Paul L. Johnson

### PLANT HISTORY AND PROCESS:

Southern Clay Products Inc. is located off Interstate #10 about 10 miles west of Van Horn, Texas. Mining operations started in 1958 as an open-pit process using bench-quarry techniques.

Raw ore trucked from the Garren Mine #2 is primary crushed to 2 inches or less in size. The crushed ore is either loaded into railroad cars for shipment or fed into a calciner for additional processing. Calcining heats the product to remove volatile materials and moisture. These products are also shipped by rail. Products to be further milled are sent to either Gonzales, Texas, or Monterrey, Mexico, and are used in the ceramics industries.

HEALTH HAZARDS: Include potentially excessive dust exposures.

### PERSONNEL RECORDS:

Records from 1958 to 1969 can be located at the home office, P.O. Box 44, Gonzales, Texas 78629. Records from 1969 to present are kept at the facility. All records are complete including Social Security numbers, and work histories.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Willson Dust Guard filter #R670 and holder #8D or DG8, is not adequate for controlling talc dust particles. It is recommended that NIOSH approved dust respirators be used in dusty areas.
2. Since equipment such as first-aid materials, hard hats, protective foot wear, and safety glasses are mandatory (Section 57.15 personal protection, 30 CFR, Chapter I, Mine Standards) they should therefore be provided and their use enforced.
3. Roadways to and from the mines should be wetted down or graded on a regular basis to help eliminate dust hazards.