INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE WALK-THROUGH REPORT

PLANT NAME: Cyprus Industrial Minerals, Keeler Mill

LOCATION: Keeler. California

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: Howard R. Ludwig, Thomas E. Sandusky

PLANT HISTORY AND PROCESS:

Cyprus Mines Corporation acquired the Keeler Mill from Sierra Talc and Clay in 1964. This mill processes talc from 5 different mines in California and Nevada.

The Keeler Mill was built in 1919 and presently employes 5 workers 5 days per week during the single 8 hour shift. The stockpiled talc is picked up by front-end loader and dumped into a crusher before being sent to a roller mill. This product may be bagged or loaded in bulk or may be further reduced in size in a vertical mill. Over a dozen different blends and grades of talc from the various mines are processed for use in paints, ceramics, and pharmaceuticals.

HEALTH HAZARDS: Potentially excessive dust and noise exposures.

PERSONNEL RECORDS: Include Social Security numbers, work histories, and lost time accident data back to at least 1964 when mill was acquired by Cyprus.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An audiometric hearing program should be instituted to ascertain the effectiveness of current hearing protection.

2. More effective ventilation around packing machines are needed to control dust levels.

3. A vacuum type system is recommended for cleanup of spillage instead of sweeping or shoveling.

Work Sheet

for

Preliminary Industrial Hygiene
Survey of

Plant Name: Cyprus Industrial Minerals, Keeler Mill

City, State: Keeler, California

Survey Date: July 20, 1976

Survey Conducted By: Howard R. Ludwig
Thomas E. Sandusky

Industrial Hygiene Section
Industry-Wide Studies Branch
Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Cincinnati, Ohio

I. General:

1. Establishment Name Cyprus Industrial Minerals, Keeler Mill

Address P.O. Box 216 City Keeler

State California Zip Code 93530 Tel. No. (714) 876-4550

2. Persons Interviewed Zack Miller, Lead man

~~XXXXX~~ Hallie Riley, Clerk

Others: On Leave - Joe Guzman, Superintendent

3. A) Union Representative: N/A

Title _____ Telephone Number _____

B) Name of Union(s) _____

5. NIOSH Staff Present H. R. Ludwig

T. E. Sandusky

II. Plant Description:

1. Is plant a subsidiary or independently owned? Subsidiary

Name of parent company Cyprus Mines Corporation

Legal Owner _____

2. Date plant built 1919 by Sierra Talc & Clay. Cyprus acquired in 1964.

Date of plant additions _____

3. Acreage of plant site _____

4. Number of major buildings 5 Total Square Feet 15,000

5. A) How many people are on your payroll at the present time? 5
usually 6 with maintenance person

B) Of this number, how many are normally in the

Production Area? 4

Administrative Area? 1

Other Areas? 0

Superintendent - 1
Clerk - 1
Lead men - 2
Mill hand - 1

6. Number of Shifts 1 - 8hr shift sometimes 2 shifts

7. Number of employees/shifts? 5

III. Description of Process:

1. What are your major products or services? (list)

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2. Plant Processes

A) Product Talc

Raw materials and possible contaminants

Talc City - Cyprus
Oasis Mine (Nevada) - Cyprus
Tecopa Mine (Panamint) - Cyprus
White Eagle Mine (Screenings & Lumps) Std. Ind. Minerals
Sagger Mine (Oasis Mine)

Production Processes Frontend loader loads talc ore into crusher to roller mill where some may be bagged or loaded in bulk quantities or it may be further milled in a vertical mill.

B) Product

Raw materials and possible contaminants

* Talc is processed for use in paints ceramics, and pharmaceuticals. Some of the various grades include:

T-076 Tecopa Mine (Panamint)
HGO-55 Blend (Tecopa, Oasis, White Eagle)
HGO-75 Coarse Blend (Tecopa, Oasis, White Eagle)
Trinity Superfine Blend (Tecopa, Oasis, White Eagle)
Sierra Cloud Blend (Tecopa, White Eagle)
C-500 Tecopa Mine (Panamint)
139 Tecopa Mine (Panamint) - Mistron
MSC Tecopa Mine (Panamint - Stearite) - Mistron
Sierralite Talc City (Frisco)
Glacier 200 Talc City (Tailings)
Furnace Greek Tecopa (Panamint)
USP Oasis High grade

Production Processes_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

IV. Description of Medical, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Programs:

1. A) Does your company employ an industrial hygienist?

Yes, at this location_____

Yes, at corporate headquarters_____

Yes, on a consulting basis_____

Yes, insurance carrier_____

Yes, specify_____

No__X__

B) Name_____Telephone Number_____

Address_____

C) What types of measurements are routinely taken? Explain.

MESA

_____

_____

_____

D) Were industrial hygiene measurements obtained: Yes_____ No__X__

2. Do you have an agreement with a physician to give your employees emergency or other medical car?

Yes, at this location--full-time_____

Yes, at this location--part-time_____

Yes, on call X

No

Name Dr. Christenson Telephone Number

Address Lone Pine, California

3. Do you have a licensed nurse in your facility at a regular time?

Yes, Full-time Yes, Part-time No X

4. Do you have an employee at this facility on each shift with formal first aid training, other than doctors or nurses, who has been designated to provide emergency treatment?

Yes X No

5. When you hire a new employee, do you require him to take a medical examination?

Yes, all employees X

Yes, some employees

No

6. Do you provide any periodic physical examinations for your employees?

Yes X No How Often Yearly

7. Do you provide special job related medical tests for your employees, such as:

Chest X-Ray	Yes X	No
Hearing Tests	Yes	No X
Visual Tests	Yes	No X
Lung Function Tests	Yes	No X
Blood Tests	Yes	No X
Urine Tests	Yes	No X
Other	Yes	No X

Specify:

8. A) Does your company have a formal safety program? Yes X No

B) Safety and Health Supervisor

C) How many people are involved in this program? All plant personnel

D) How many lost-time accidents did you have last year?

Frequency 0 Severity 0

9. Has there been any medical abnormalities among workers which can be contributed to an occupational exposure?

Explain No

10. What protective equipment is required:

Equipment Provided by Employer

Clothing	Yes ____	No X
Glasses	Yes ____	No X
Shoes	Yes X	No ____
Respirators	Yes X	No ____

Type Dustfoe 66 (MSA)

Where Used ____

Other Hearing Protection, hard hats

11. A) Are there facilities for taking showers?

Yes ____ No x

B) Are there facilities for changing clothes?

Yes x No ____

C) Obtained descriptive literature on products?

Yes ____ No x

V. Narrative:

1. Description of Medical, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Program:

Superintendent conducts monthly safety meeting with all employees. Past recommendations are reviewed and any new recommendations are discussed.

2. Potential Health Hazards:

Dust, noise

3. Have product lines changed over the years? (If they have, include any other raw materials used).

no

4. Are waste products reused: (If not, how are they disposed?)

Tailings from some mines are used.

5. Briefly describe any past air sampling data.

6. **Completeness of Personnel Records:**

Social Security Numbers - Yes

Work History - Yes

Lost Time Accident Data - Yes

Records Available Since at least 1964

7. **Ventilation: (Include type, size, kinds of collectors, H.P. of blowers, history of changes, etc.)**

Fans near packing machines to keep dust away from packers. Exhaust ventilation over crusher.

8. **Housekeeping:**

Fairly good; but vacuuming would be better.

9. **Miscellaneous:**