

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE WALK-THROUGH REPORT

PLANT NAME: Texas Talc Company - Texas Pacific (TP) 1 and 2 Mines
(Dallas Ceramics Company)

LOCATION: Van Horn, 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.

NIOSH PERSONNEL: Paul L. Johnson

PLANT HISTORY AND PROCESS:

Texas Talc Company (Dallas Ceramics Company) is located on a 280 acre site approximately 10 miles west of Van Horn, Texas. Mining operations started in 1966 with ore extraction from the TP1 Mine. In 1971 a primary crusher was added, and in 1975 the TP2 Mine was opened as a joint mining operation. There are 11 workers employed at this facility during the 8-hour work day. All are alternated as drivers, blasters, loaders, and track-drill operators. Both mines use open-pit bench quarry techniques. Stripping of topsoil (overburden) in preparation for blasting is done by dozers. Blasting consists of drilling 20 to 100 holes, 14 to 16 ft. deep by a self-propelled track drill. Added to each hole is 1 stick of dynamite (60% strength), a primer cord, and dirt packing. Before the blast, personnel are cleared from the area and all access roads are blocked. Three to twelve hours following the blast the mine is re-entered. Raw ore is then loaded onto trucks to be transported for primary crushing. Crushed ore 1 to 3 inches in size is either stockpiled or loaded into railroad cars for shipment. The ceramic and paint industries receive most of the finished products. Fine milling of all products is done at either Dallas, Texas (Dallas Ceramics) or Monterrey, Mexico (Ceramic Regimontana S.A.).

HEALTH HAZARDS: Include potentially excessive dust exposures.

PERSONNEL RECORDS:

Personnel records prior to 1974 are not complete. These records can be located at Dallas Ceramics, 7834 Hanns Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75272. Records dated 1974 to present are located at the Van Horn plant. They include Social Security numbers, job descriptions and work histories.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Roadways to and from the mines should be wetted down or graded on a regular basis to help eliminate excessive dust.
2. Respirator protection should be mandatory for all employees working in dusty areas.
3. The Willson Dust Guard, filter #R670, 8D or DG8, is not adequate for controlling talc dust particles. It is recommended that NIOSH approved dust respirators be used during dusty operations.
4. It is recommended that a safety program be designed and implemented. This program should consist of mine and job safety, and annual instruction for all employees.

Work Sheet
for
Preliminary Industrial Hygiene
Survey of

Plant Name: Texas Talc Company - Texas Pacific (TP) 1 and 2 Mine
(Dallas Ceramics Company)

City, State: Van Horn, Texas

Survey Date: June 23, 1976

Survey Conducted By: Paul L. Johnson

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 Texas Talc Company
Address P.O. Box 866 City Van Horn
State Texas Zip Code 79855 Tel. No 214/398-141
2. Persons Interviewed O.W. Massey, Barba J. Massey
Title Superintendent - Secretary
Others: _____

3. A) Union Representative: None
Title _____ Telephone Number _____
B) Name of Union(s) _____
5. NIOSH Staff Present Paul L. Johnson

II. Plant Description:

1. Is plant a subsidiary or independently owned? Subsidiary
Name of parent company Dallas Ceramics
Legal Owner R.M. Brittingham
2. Date plant built Texas Pacific Mine #1 - 1966, Texas Pacific Mine #2 - 19
Date of plant additions Crusher in 1971
3. Acreage of plant site 200 acre crusher site, Mines were located on
40 acre tracts
4. Number of major buildings 3 Total Square Feet _____
5. A) How many people are on your payroll at the present time? 11
B) Of this number, how many are normally in the
Production Area? 9 Each employee is trained to work
all areas.
Administrative Area? 2
Other Areas? _____

6. Number of Shifts 1-8 hour shift/day
 7. Number of employees/shifts? 11

However, when the calciner is in operation, approximately two months out of the year, 3-eight hour shifts are put in force occupying one employee per shift.

III. Description of Process:

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

<u>Talc</u>	<u>Color - White to gray</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Plant Processes

A) Product _____

Raw materials and possible contaminants

Rock-separated from talc ore by shovel and by hand

Production Processes Mines, TP1 and TP2 serving the Texas Talc Company
are both open-pit using bench quarry techniques. Stripping of top
soil in preparation for blasting is done by dozers and a diesel powered
shovel. Blasting consists of drilling sets of 20 to 100 holes, 3 inches
in diameter, 14 to 16 feet deep, by a self-propelled track drill.

Added to each hole is 1 stick of dynamite (60% strength), a primer
cord, and dirt packing. Before blasting, all personnel are cleared
from the area and all access roads are blocked. Three to twelve

(over) -

B) Product _____

Raw materials and possible contaminants

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

hours following the blast the mine is re-entered. Raw ore is then loaded onto trucks to be transported for primary crushing. Each truck hauls 10-12 tons per load. The crushed ore, 1 to 3 inches in size, is either stock-piled or loaded into railroad cars for shipments.

Ceramic and paint industries receive most of the finished and calcined products from the TP1&2 mines. Fine milling of all products is done at either Dallas, Texas (Dallas Ceramics) or Monterrey, Mexico (Ceramic Regimontana S.A.)

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.

None _____

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 care?

Yes, at this location--full-time _____

Yes, at this location--part-time _____

Yes, on call _____

No X

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____

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 _____

Yes, some employees _____

No X

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

Yes _____ No X How Often _____

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 X No _____

Lung Function Tests Yes X No _____

Blood Tests Yes X No _____

Urine Tests Yes X No _____

Other Yes _____ No X

Specify: These services are conducted by the county health nurse

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

B) Safety and Health Supervisor Barba J. Massey has completed first aid and safety training totaling 30 hours.

C) How many people are involved in this program? 0

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

Frequency 0 Severity

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

Explain None

10. What protective equipment is required:

Equipment Provided by Employer

Clothing	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> X </u>
Glasses	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> X </u>
Shoes	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> X </u>
Respirators	Yes <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>

Type Willson dust guard filters #R670, 8D or DG8

Where Used Dusty area

Other Hard hats

11. A) Are there facilities for taking showers?

Yes No X

B) Are there facilities for changing clothes?

Yes No X

C) Obtained descriptive literature on products?

Yes No X

V. Narrative:

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

At time of survey Medical, Safety and Industrial Hygiene Programs
were not in force.

2. Potential Health Hazards:

Dust from processing

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

NA

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

Waste products are piled in abandoned pits.

5. Briefly describe any past air sampling data.

NA

6. Completeness of Personnel Records:

Social Security Numbers - Yes

Work History - Yes

Lost Time Accident Data - Yes

Records Available Since 1974 located at the Van Horn facility.

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

NA

8. Housekeeping:

Roadways were somewhat dusty due to the very dry climate. However,
the overall operations was very clean.

9. Miscellaneous:

Blasting done only 3-4 times per year.

Finished product used for ceramics.

