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AP42 Section:	11.16
Reference:	17
Title:	Telephone communication between P. J. Murin, Radian Corporation, Durham, NC, and J. W. Pressler, U. S. Department Of The Interior, Bureau Of Mines, Washington, DC, November 6, 1979.

RADIAN CORPORATION

TELEPHONE CALL RECORD

Incoming Call
 Outgoing Call

GYPSUM
MANUFACTURING #
AP-42 Section 8.14
Reference Number
17

Project No. 230-372-10-01	
Project Name Survey of Gypsum Production	
Date 11/6/79	Time

MEK
file

Person Calling Patrick J. Murin	Activity Radian Corporation
Person Called Jean W. Pressler	Activity USBM, 202-634-1206
General Subject General discussion about growth and trends in gypsum industry	

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND ACTION TAKEN

Mr. Pressler discussed trends in the demand for gypsum, prospects for using by-product gypsum, and trends in processing equipment.

Through 2000, the USBM predicts the sale or use of prefabricated building products to increase by 2.7%/year. In 1976, 13,956,000 thousand short tons of prefabricated products were sold or used in the U.S. This will increase to about 27,000,000 thousand short tons by 2000. Over the past two years, growth in the consumption of prefabricated products has ~~averaged~~ ^{averaged} 3.5%/year.

Growth depends mainly on the housing industry; growth will also be affected by environmental pressures on the gypsum industry. No new plants are expected; however, some expansions of current capacity will occur. The industry operated at a capacity 85-90% capacity for the last two years.

In the future, the U.S. could import more; the U.S. currently imports about 35% of its needs. Imports could make inroads into the U.S. inland gypsum markets. Although imports could increase in importance, no predictions of this increase have been made.

Not much by-product gypsum will be used in the U.S. through 1985. Although more by-product gypsum will ^{Signature} certainly be used, no one

has estimated how much will be used. Mr. Pressler feels that 1985 is a critical ⁽⁷⁾ date for the future use of by-product gypsum. Future prospects for using by-product gypsum should be better defined by 1985.

In the U.S. by-product gypsum is used only in agricultural products. Mr. Pressler sees no real incentive to use by-product gypsum except for agriculture. About 700,000 short tons are used for agricultural products; this will increase to about 1,000,000 short tons in 1985. Plans to use by-product gypsum in board manufacture have been discussed but no plants using synthetic gypsum have been built. As costs for disposing by-product gypsum increase, more of the by-product gypsum will be used in agricultural, cement, and board products.

Gypsum recovered from phosphoric acid plants is ^{usually} contaminated and unsuitable for most uses. ^{Certain} flue-gas desulfurization ^{processes, however,} can produce high-quality by-product gypsum. Gypsum can also be recovered from HF and synthetic citric acid plants. Japan, England, West Germany, and South Africa are among the countries using by-product gypsum for wallboard, plaster, and cement and agricultural products.

Mr. Pressler sees no trend in the use of indirect-treated kilns. Direct coal-firing is rare ^{and risks} since the ~~combustion products~~ ^{contaminates} the gypsum products. The industry has improved its energy usage efficiency by 10-15% and now uses ^{an average of} 2.7 MM Btu/1000 ft² of board. An additional improvement of 7% is the goal for 1980. The industry's energy usage ~~requirements~~ ^{requirements} are met by natural gas (^{amounting to} 70% of the industry's usage of energy), electricity (7%), coal (2%), propane (2%), ^{and} fuel oil (18%). Coal gasification has been considered as an alternate energy source.