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SMELTING 12.3  
AP-42 Section ~~7.3~~  
Reference Number  
~~22~~ 23

AP-42  
5th ed.  
Section 12.3  
# 23

October 18, 1978

Mr. Don R. Goodwin, Director  
Emission Standards and Engineering Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

Pursuant to your request of September 13, 1978, I  
enclose a completed questionnaire with respect to  
Phelps Dodge Corporation's Hidalgo Smelter at  
Playas, New Mexico.

Yours very truly,

M. P. Scanlon  
Vice President

MPS:rh  
Encl.

I. GENERAL:

- A. Name, address, and telephone number of person to contact regarding response to this request for information:

H. E. Dunham, Jr.                      Phone: (505)436-2211  
P. O. Box 67                              Ext. 211  
Playas, New Mexico  
88009

- B. Diagram of general plot plan showing copper smelter process equipment, air pollution control equipment and stack.

See attached drawings

- C. Smelter start-up date (month/year):

June, 1976

- D. Standard conditions (temperature and pressure) at which values for SCFM reported herein are computed:

60°F at 1 atm

II. A. GENERAL:

1. Description of smelter process operations including current process flowsheet.

For process description see Appendix 1 and Figure 1.

2. Smelter design capacity (ton charge/hour).

97 tons charge/hour

3. Actual production rate (lbs. blister copper/hour and percent Cu).

438 TPD of 99 + % Cu

(36,500 lbs/hr)

4. Provide the following data on the consumption of fuels including oil, gas and coal:

- a. Process(es) to which applied
- b. Heating value
- c. Percent sulfur
- d. Consumption

See Table 1

5. Source and composition of copper ore concentrates typically processed. Include the average percent and range of percentages for each major chemical constituent and arsenic.

<u>Composition</u>	<u>Tyrone</u>	<u>Bagdad</u>
Wt %		
Cu	20 + 5	28 + 6
Fe	30 ± 8	25 ± 12
S	40 ± 7	30 ± 10
SiO <sub>2</sub>	6 ± 2	8 ± 3
As	0.01 ± .005	0.04 ± .02

II. A. GENERAL: (cont.)

6. Percent arsenic in fluxing materials processed.

Information not available

7. Description of charge preparation and bedding practices.

See Appendix 1

8. Description of any plans for modifying or expanding existing smelter equipment and/or pollution control equipment over the next five years.

At present, no plans for modifications or expansion of smelter equipment and/or pollution control equipment are being considered for the next five years.

B. DRYER:

1. Type, manufacturer, and expected service life.

Type: Rotary kiln  
Manufacturer: Fuller Co.  
Expected service life: 20 years

2. Type and quantity of fuel consumed per ton of charge and air/fuel ratio. If not fuel-fired, specify source of drying air including volume and temperature at which supplied.

Type and quantity: No. 5 fuel oil at 0.4 gals/ton

Air/Fuel ratio: 1.2

<u>Source</u>	<u>Volume SCFM</u>	<u>Temperature °F</u>
Superheater Off-Gas	14,850	600°F
Process Air Preheaters Off-Gas	10,300	600°F

II. B. DRYER:

3. Design and actual process feed rate  
(lbs concentrate/hour, lbs. flux/hour, etc.)

<u>Tons/Hour</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Concentrate	78	84
Flux	10	11
Dust	1.5	2

4. Normal process operating temperature.

180°F - 220°F

5. Volume and temperature of process off-gas stream generated and percent SO<sub>2</sub>.

22,400 SCFM at 180°F with 0.04 % SO<sub>2</sub>

6. Percent arsenic contained in dryer product.

Information not available

C. FLASH SMELTING FURNACE:

1. Type, manufacturer, and expected service life.

Type: Outokumpu Oy  
Manufacturer: Outokumpu Oy  
Expected service life: 20 years

2. Diagram of furnace showing overall dimensions and location of charging ports, matte taps, and slag taps.

See Figure 2 for location and number of matte tap holes and slag skimming holes. The dimensions of the flash furnace are as follows:

Reaction Shaft: 26' 11" ID x 35' 11-7/8"  
Height Inside  
Settler: 76' 7" Base x 32" 8" width x 20' 6"  
Height  
Uptake Shaft: 30' 0" x 21' 6" x 54' 5"  
Inside Dimension

C. FLASH SMELTING FURNACE: (cont.)

4. Design and actual process feed rates  
(lbs dryer output/hour, lbs flue dust/hour, etc.)

See II. B - 3

5. Estimate of percent arsenic contained in furnace charge.

0.03 % As

6. Source, temperature and quantity of preheated air injected per ton of charge.

Source:	Ambient
Temperature:	700°-850°F
Quantity:	52,919 SCF/Ton

7. Furnace operating temperature.

2460°F

8. Normal draft maintained across furnace (mm of Hg)

1.0 mm of Hg

9. Design and normal production rate.

(lbs. matte/hour and lbs. slag/hour) and matte grade (percent Cu).

<u>Tons/Hour</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>% Cu</u>
Matte	25	27	55-60
Slag	58	63	

10. Percent arsenic contained in slag and matte.

Information not available

C. FLASH SMELTING FURNACE: (cont.)

11. Volume and temperature of process off-gas stream generated and percent SO<sub>2</sub>

Volume: 86,600 SCFM  
Temperature: 2200° F  
Percent SO<sub>2</sub>: 10%

12. Number and type of waste heat boilers used and quantity of waste heat recovered.

Number: One  
Type: Forced water circulation  
Waste Heat Recovered: 3 x 10<sup>8</sup> BTU/Hr.

13. Quantity of dust recovered by waste heat boilers per unit time and the percent arsenic contained.

188 tons/day at 0.06 % arsenic

D. CONVERTERS:

1. Number, type and expected service life of converter.

Number: Three  
Type: Pierce-Smith  
Expected Service Life: 20 years

2. Description of converter operation including the number of converters typically on blow; the duration of normal slag and copper (finish) blows; and the quantity of blast air and/or oxygen used for slag and copper blows (SCFM).

See Appendix 2

D. CONVERTERS:

3. Design and actual process feed rates (lbs flash furnace matte/hour, lbs flue dust/hour, lbs flux/hour, lbs precipitates/hour, and lbs slag furnace matte/hour).

<u>Tons/Hour</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>
Flash Furnace Matte	27	25
Slag Furnace Matte	9.3	8.6
Flux	1.9	1.7
Dust	-	-
Precipitates	-	-

4. Normal converter operating temperatures during slag and copper blows.

2200 - 2600°F

5. Normal production rate (lbs blister Cu/Hour and lbs slag/hour).

Blister 20.6 Tons/Hr.  
Slag 5.5 Tons/Hr.

6. Percent arsenic contained in blister and slag.

Information not available

7. Volume and temperature of process off-gas stream generated and average percent SO<sub>2</sub>.

Volume: 35,000 SCFM  
Temperature: 1400°F  
% SO<sub>2</sub>: 6-7%

D. CONVERTERS: (cont.)

8. Number and type of waste heat boilers used and quantity of waste heat recovered.

Number: Three  
Type: Forced water circulation  
Waste Heat Recovered:  $1 \times 10^6$  BTU/Hour

9. Quantity of dust recovered per unit time and the percent arsenic contained.

3 Tons/Day with .06% arsenic

E. SLAG FURNACE:

1. Manufacturer, type, dimensions and expected service life of slag furnace.

Manufacturer: Krupp  
Type: Electric  
Dimensions: 31' 0" ID x 13' 9-1/16" Height (inside)  
Expected Service Life: 20 years

2. Type and quantity of energy consumed per tone of charge. If fuel-fired, provide air to fuel ratio.

Type: Electric  
Energy Consumed per Ton of Charge: 94 KWH

3. Description of charging method.

Flash furnace matte is transferred by launder to the slag cleaning furnace. Converter slag is charged by overhead crane transfer of ladles and poured into side charging launders. Reverts are charged through bin feeds into the top of the furnace.

4. Design and actual process feed rates (lbs converter slag/hour, lbs reverts/hour, etc.)

<u>Tons/Hour</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Flash Furnace	58	63
Converter	5.5	7
Reverts	12	-

E. SLAG FURNACE: (cont.)

5. Percent arsenic contained in reverts and other feed to furnace.

Information not available

6. Normal furnace operating temperature.

2250-2400°F

7. Normal production rate (lbs matte/hour and lbs slag/hour) and matte grade produced (percent Cu).

Matte:	8.6 Tons/Hr	60-65% Cu
Slag:	55 Tons/Hr	

8. Percent arsenic contained in slag and matte.

Information not available

9. Volume and temperature of process off-gas stream generated and percent SO<sub>2</sub>

Volume:	3000 SCFM
Temperature:	1100-1200°F
% SO <sub>2</sub> :	0.3 - 0.5

F. ANODE FURNACE:

1. Manufacturer, type and expected service life of furnace.

Manufacturer:	Pierce-Smith
Type:	Horizontal
Expected Service Life:	20 years

2. Design and actual process feed rate (lbs blister/hour).

<u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>
22.3 tons/Hr.	20.6 Tons/Hr.

F. ANODE FURNACE:

3. Type and quantity of fuel consumed per ton of charge and quantity of air/oxygen consumed.

Type:	Quantity consumed per ton of charge
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Kerosene:	2.9 gals
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Desulfurized	294 SCF
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Propane	
---------	--

Air:	7500 SCF
------	----------

4. Volume and temperature of process off-gas stream generated and percent SO<sub>2</sub>.

Volume:	3100 SCFM
---------	-----------

Temperature:	1000°F
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% SO <sub>2</sub> :	trace
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5. Normal production rate (lbs anode Cu/hour).

18.25 Tons/Hr.

6. Percent arsenic contained in anode copper.

Information not available

III. EMISSIONS:

- A. List of sources of particulate emissions in the plant including fugitive emissions.
1. Main stack (fugitive emissions)
  2. Two Acid Plant stacks
  3. Power House stack (used only for starting and during a shutdown).
- B. Level of uncontrolled mass particulate arsenic emissions by source (lbs/hour)
- Information not available
- C. Actual particulate and arsenic emissions data available on process sources, associated air pollution control systems, and stacks. If available, enclose actual test reports.
1. Main stack 11 lb/hr particulate
  2. Acid Plant stacks (2) <1 lb/hr
  3. Power House stack 2.8 lb/hr
- Arsenic information is not available
- D. Description of typical types of process fluctuations and/or malfunctions experienced at each process source including the frequency of their occurrence and their resultant impact on emissions, both process and fugitive.

Each process source of emissions can be bypassed into the fugitive gas system upon malfunction. The resultant impact is to increase the emissions from the main stack and/or decrease the acid production. The fugitive gas system has had no failures.

IV.

CONTROL SYSTEMS:

A. Rotary dryer electrostatic precipitator (ESP)

1. Manufacturer, type, date installed, and expected service life.

Manufacturer:	S. F. Carborandum
Type:	Plate to wire
Date Installed:	January, 1976
Expected Service Life:	20 years

2. Overall Dimensions:

50' x 40' x 30'

3. Number of banks and number of sections per bank.

Number of banks:	1
Number of section/ banks:	3

4. Number of transformers and rectifier sets.

Number of transformers:	3
Number of rectifiers:	3

5. Design collection efficiency. (Indicate temperature at which specified.)

99.9% at 185<sup>o</sup>F - 320<sup>o</sup>F

6. Collection area (square feet).

48,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

7. Design and actual values for the following operating parameters:

- a. Gas flow rate treated (SCFM) and temperature (°F).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gas Flow SCFM	32,000	22,400
Temperature °F	185 - 320	180 - 220

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

7. Cont.

- b. Inlet particulate loading (grain/SCF or lbs/hr).

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
50 - 100 gr/SCF	125 gr/SCF

- c. Outlet particulate loading

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
0.03 gr/SCF	0.04 gr/SCF

- d. Resistivity of particulate (ohm-cm), if known.

Information is not available

- e. Secondary voltage and current (kilovolts and milliamperes).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Kilovolts	Variable	40
Milliamperes	Variable	250

- f. Rapping (frequency and duration per section).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Frequency	Variable	5 minutes
Duration	Variable	5 minutes

- g. Pressure drop (inches of water).

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
0.8	Not available

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

B. Flash Furnace ESP

1. Manufacturer, type, date installed and expected service life.

Manufacturer: S. F. Carborandum  
Type: Plate to plate  
Date Installed: January, 1976  
Expected Service Life: 20 years

2. Overall Dimensions

74' x 33' x 40' each

3. Number of banks and number of sections per bank.

Number of Banks: 3  
Number of Sections/Bank: 4

4. Number of transformer and rectifier sets.

Number of Transformers: 4  
Number of Rectifiers: 4

5. Design collection efficiency - (indicate temperature at which specified).

99.9% at 515°F - 575°F

6. Collection area ( square feet).

192,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

7. Design and actual values for the following operating parameters:

- a. Gas flow rate treated (SCFM) and temperature (°F).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gas Flow SCFM	33,000 each	50,000 each
Temperature °F	450-650 each	450-600 each

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

B. Flash Furnace ESP (cont.)

7. Cont.

- b. Inlet particulate loading (grain/SCF or lbs/hr).

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
100-250 gr/SCF	190 gr/SCF

- c. Outlet particulate loading

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
0.02 gr/SCF	0.02 gr/SCF

- d. Resistivity of particulate (ohm-CM), if known.

Information is not available

- e. Secondary voltage and current (kilovolts and milliamperes).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Kilovolts	variable	40
Milliamperes	variable	250

- f. Rapping (frequency and duration per section)

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Frequency:	variable	5 minutes
Duration:	variable	5 minutes

- g. Pressure drop (inches of water)

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
12	Not available

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

C. Converter ESP

1. Manufacturer, type, date installed, and expected service life.

Manufacturer: Koppers  
Type: Plate to wire  
Date Installed: January, 1976  
Expected Service Life: 20 years

2. Overall dimensions

65' x 30' x 40' each

3. Number of banks and number of sections per bank.

Number of banks: 2  
Number of sections/bank: 3

4. Number of transformer and rectifier sets.

Number of transformers: 3  
Number of rectifiers: 3

5. Design collection efficiency (indicate temperature at which specified).

98.3% at 450°F - 700°F

6. Collection area (square feet).

42,000 ft<sup>2</sup> each

7. Design and actual values for the following operating parameters.

- a. Gas flow rate treated (SCFM) and temperature (°F).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gas Flow SCFM	42,500	35,000
Temperature °F	450-700	450-600

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

C. Converter ESP (cont.)

7. Cont.

b. Inlet particulate loading (grains/SCF or lbs/hr).

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
3.0 gr/SCF	1.8 gr/SCF

c. Outlet particulate loading

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
.05 gr/SCF	0.02 gr/SCF

d. Resistivity of particulate (ohm-cm), if known

Information is not available

e. Secondary voltage and current (kilovolts and milliamperes).

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Kilovolts	variable	40
Milliamperes	variable	250

f. Rapping (frequency and duration per sectional

	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Frequency:	variable	5 minutes
Duration:	variable	5 minutes

g. Pressure drop (inches of water)

<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
12	2

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

D. Slag Furnace

1. Are emissions from the slag furnace controlled?

Yes

2. If controlled, describe controls, particulate and arsenic loading (grain/SCF or lbs/hour), gas volume handled (SCFM), and temperature (<sup>o</sup>F).

Slag furnace off-gases are routed to the Acid Plants (2).

Particulate: 15.5 - 37.5 gr/SCF

Gas Volume: 3000 SCFM

Temperature: 1100-1200<sup>o</sup>F

Arsenic loading information is not available

E. Acid Plants

For each Acid Plant in service, provide the following information:

1. Process source(s) controlled

- a. Flash Furnace
- b. Slag Furnace
- c. Converters

2. Manufacturer, type and date installed.

	<u># 1</u>	<u># 2</u>
Manufacturer:	Chemico	Lurgi
Type:	Double Contact	Double Contact
Date Installed:	July, 1976	November, 1977

3. Manufacturer's guarantees if any.

Yes, variable depending on individual equipment in the Acid Plants.

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

E. Acid Plants (cont.)

4. Brief description of gas-stream pre-cleaning system(s) downstream of ESP's.

See #5 below

5. If scrubbers are used, provide the following:

- a. Type of scrubber

#1

#2

Swenco Bubble  
Contact Scrubber

Venturi Scrubber

- b. Pressure drop across scrubber

#1

#2

4 in. water

1 in. water

- c. Type and quantity (gpm) of scrubbing media used.

#1

#2

1% weak acid  
2000 gpm

1% weak acid  
4000 gpm

- d. Temperature at inlet and outlet

#1

#2

450°F - 75°F

450°F - 110°F

6. Design and actual values for the following operating parameters:

- a. Gas flow rate treated (SCFM)

	<u>#1</u>		<u>#2</u>	
	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gas Flow Rate				
SCFM	90,000	55,350	129,000	79,650

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

6. Cont.

b. Acid Production (ton/day)

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u> <u>Actual</u>
950 TPD	634 TPD	1800 TPD	1177 TPD

c. Acid Strength Produced

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u> <u>Actual</u>
93%	93%	93/98%	93/98%

d. Conversion Rate

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u> <u>Actual</u>
99.7%	99.7%	99.7%	99.7%

e. Number of catalyst beds

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u> <u>Actual</u>
4	4	4	4

f. Inlet SO<sub>2</sub> concentration (percent SO<sub>2</sub>)

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u> <u>Actual</u>
7.5%	9%	7.5%	9%

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

6. Cont.

g. Outlet SO<sub>2</sub> concentration (ppm).

<u>Design</u>	<u>#1</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Design</u>	<u>#2</u>	<u>Actual</u>
450 ppm		500-650 ppm	450 ppm		500-650 ppm

7. Percent arsenic typically contained in stack discharge, product acid, and scrubber effluents.

Information is not available.

F. FUGITIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS:

1. Secondary converter hoods

a. Manufacturer, type, date installed and expected service life of hoods.

Manufacturer: In-House Design  
Type: Sliding door  
Date Installed:  
Expected Service Life: 10 years

b. Overall dimensions of hoods.

29' x 19' x 18'

c. Total gas volume handled by system (SCFM)

25,000 SCFM

d. Temperature of gas (°F)

300 - 500 °F

e. Particulate loading (grain/SCF or lbs/Hr.)

11 lbs/Hr.

f. Percent arsenic in flue dust

Information not available

IV. CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

F. FUGITIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS: (cont.)

1. Cont.

- g. Brief description of how system is operated including the periods when converter is in a roll-out mode.

The converters are a controlled source when rolled in. In the rolled out mode the converter hood is closed off from the controlled source system and opened to the fugitive gas collection system.

- h. Discuss any operating problem in using these hoods, if any.

No major problems have been encountered.

2. Other fugitive control systems.

- a. Matte tapping (flash furnace).

Yes

- b. Matte tapping (slag furnace)

Yes

- c. Slag tapping (flash furnace)

Yes

- d. Slag tapping (slag furnace)

Yes

Provide a brief description of how these systems operate, gas volumes handled, hooding of launders and ladles, if any, operating problems, particulate and arsenic loading (grain/SCF or lbs/hour), and any other information pertinent to the control of fugitive emissions from these areas.

All transfer launders are equipped with hinged covers and are collected by the fugitive gas system at the launder exit. Hoods are placed over all of the tapping and skimming ports and collected by the fugitive gas system. All collection points are equipped with pneumatic gate valves that are opened and closed accordingly.

	<u>GAS VOLUME SCFM</u>	<u>PARTICULATE LOADING (gr/SCF)</u>	<u>ARSENIC LOADING (gr/SCF)</u>
Matte Tapping (Flash)		Not available	Not available
Matte Tapping (Slag)		Not available	Not available
Slag Tapping (Flash)		Not available	Not available
Slag Tapping (Slag)		Not available	Not available
TOTAL	<u>40,000 SCFM</u>		

V.

STACKS:

A. Identify and list the process and/or control systems exhausted to each stack.

1. Main stack exhausts the following fugitive gases.

- a. Dryer ESP
- b. Flash furnace - tapping and skimming
- c. Slag furnace - tapping and skimming
- d. Converter ground smoke
- e. Anode furnace
- f. Superheater off-gases
- g. Preheater off-gases

2. Acid Plant Stacks (2)

Off-gases from the following:

- a. Flash furnace
- b. Slag furnace
- c. Converters

3. Power House stack

Off-gas from steam boiler used only for starting and during a shutdown condition.

B. Provide the following data on stack configuration for each stack:

1. Elevation of base of stack (feet above sea level).

<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid</u>	<u>Power House</u>
4329'	4335'	4324'

2. Height (feet above terrain).

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid Plants</u>	<u>Power House</u>
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Height (ft)	599	200	250
			160

V. STACKS: (cont.)

B. Cont.

3. Inside diameter (feet)

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid Plants</u>		<u>Power House</u>
		1	2	
Inside dia. (feet)	17'11"	7'6"	6'1"	8'6"

4. Exit temperature (°F)

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid Plants</u>		<u>Power House</u>
		1	2	
Exit temp. (°F)	140	75	110	Not available

5. Exit gas discharge velocity (fpm)

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid Plants</u>		<u>Power House</u>
		1	2	
Discharge velocity (fpm)	420	2700	3180	900

6. Gas volume discharged (SCFM)

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Acid Plants</u>		<u>Power House</u>
		1	2	
Gas volume (scfm)	100,150	120,000		21,630

## APPENDIX

1

### II. PROCESS:

#### A. General

1. Description of smelter process operations including current process flowsheet.

The smelter primarily consists of:

1. Concentrate and flux receiving with storage facilities.
2. A dryer unit and flash furnace feed system.
3. Process air preheaters, flash furnace, waste heat boiler and three precipitators in parallel.
4. A sulfur plant.
5. Two acid plants and scrubbers.
6. An electric furnace for the treatment of slags and disposal facilities for cleaned slag.
7. Three 13' x 30' Pierce-Smith Converters with waste heat boilers and two precipitators in parallel.
8. Two anode furnaces, anode casting wheel and an automatic take-off machine.
9. Power plant.
10. Fugitive gas handling system.

The concentrates are received and thoroughly blended and stored inside a covered building with four beds. The blended concentrates are then proportionally mixed with flux and fed to the dryer. The blending of the concentrates insures a homogeneous furnace feed that gives steady-state conditions for the flash furnace operation. The steady-state production of dust and SO<sub>2</sub> allows optimum conditions for the pollution control equipment to operate at its maximum efficiency.

The solids circuit consists of a flux crushing and grinding, mixing with concentrate, then dried and fed to the flash furnace. Since a fine grind is needed for the flash smelting process, dust precipitators are used to collect the dust produced from drying, flash smelting and converting. The dust that has high copper content is then returned to the system by two different means. The undersize dust is returned directly to the flash furnace. The oversize dust is carried by bucket back to the bedding plant where it is mixed homogeneously with the concentrate.

The liquid circuit consists of two different paths, one for matte and one for slag. The flash furnace matte (55-60% Cu) is transferred by ladles to the converters which convert the matte into blister copper (94-99% Cu). The blister copper is further treated in the anode furnaces to produce anode copper (99+% Cu). The 99+% copper is then poured into anodes for shipment to the refinery.

The slag circuit consists of flash furnace slag (1.5-5% Cu) that is transferred by launder to the electric slag cleaning furnace where it is joined by ladle transfer of converter slag (5-10% Cu) and bin feed of reverts. The matte (60-65% Cu) is transferred by ladle to the converter. The slag (0.8-1.0% Cu) is taken to the slag dump.

The off-gases produced in flash smelting, electric slag cleaning and converting are then processed in the acid plants and discharge to the atmosphere with 99+% of the dust and over 90% of the sulfur removed. The uncontrolled off-gases (fugitive) are collected at all points of transfer (except ladles), including the off-gases produced from the anode furnace, steam superheaters, process air preheaters and converter ground gases. These fugitive gases are then routed to the main stack for one point of discharge to the atmosphere.

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Flash and slag cleaning furnace matte is transferred by ladle to the converters. Flux is added and air under high pressure is blown through the matte to oxidize the remaining iron sulfide (slag blow). The slag is then transferred to the slag cleaning furnace. The remaining matte ( $\text{Cu}_2\text{S}$ ) is blown with high pressure air to reduce  $\text{Cu}_2\text{S}$  into copper (finish blow).

In both blows the off-gases are a controlled source and routed to the acid plant.

	<u>M I N U T E S</u>		
	<u>BLOWING</u>	<u>NOT BLOWING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Slagging Period	130	110	240
Finish Period to Worm Off	50	20	70
Finish Period After Worm Off	0-10	0	0-10
Preparation for Next Charge	0	75	75
Total Elapsed Time	190	205	395
Slag Blow Air (SCFM)	18,000 SCFM		
Finish Blow Air (SCFM)	18,000 SCFM		
No oxygen enrichment is used			

T A B L E 1

FUEL USAGE AND HEAT CONTENT

<u>PROCESS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CONSUMPTION</u>	<u>HEAT VALUE</u>	<u>% S</u>
Drying	No. 5 Fuel Oil	0.6 gpm	140,950 BTU/Gal	0.75
Flash Smelting	No. 5 Fuel Oil	17 gpm	140,950 BTU/Gal	0.75
Process Preheaters	No. 5 Fuel Oil	6.5 gpm	140,950 BTU/Gal	0.75
Anode Furnaces	Kerosene	1 gpm	136,720 BTU/Gal	0.5
Gas Reformer	Propane	100 SCFM	96,500 BTU/Gal	trace
Acid Plant Preheaters	No. 5 Fuel Oil	1000 per/ month	140,950 BTU/Gal	0.75
Converters	Kerosene	3 gpm	136,720 BTU/Gal	0.5

# HIDALGO SMELTER FLOW CHART

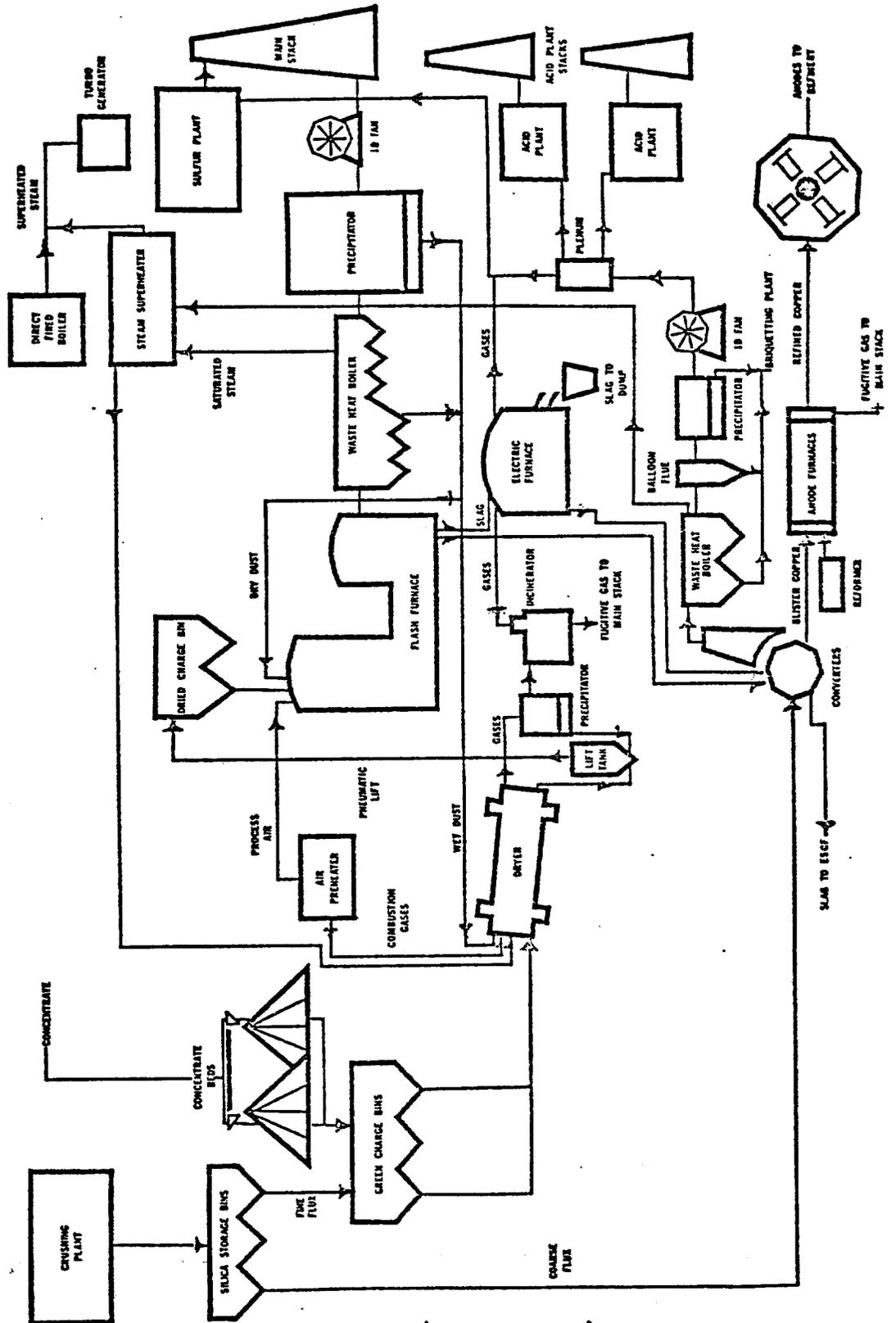
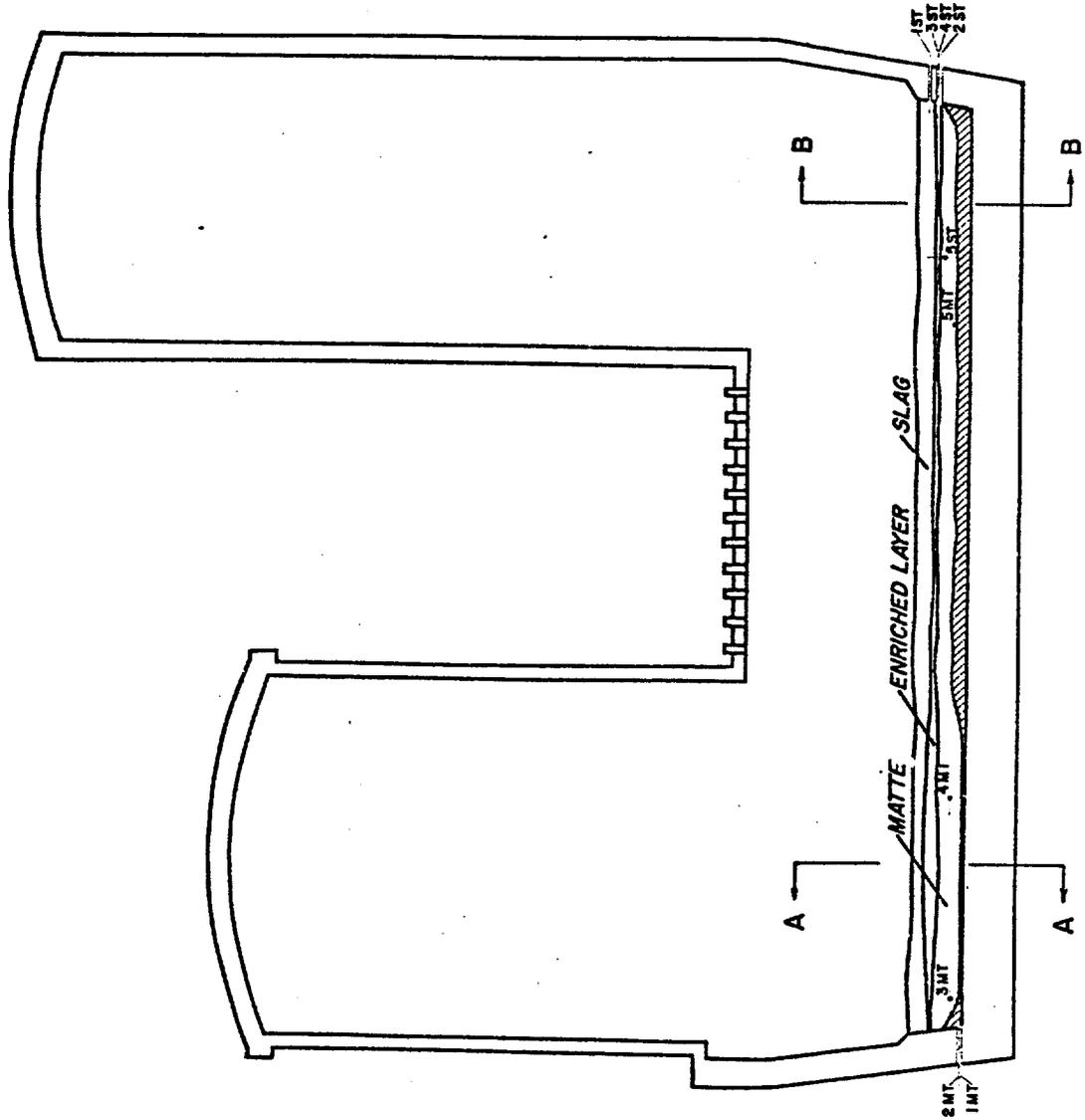


FIGURE 1

TAP HOLES	
Hole No.	Elev. from Bottom
<u>MATTE HOLES</u>	
1	0"
2	1"
3	7"
4	9"
5	9"

<u>SLAG HOLES</u>	
1	25 3/4"
2	18 3/4"
3	20 3/4"
4	23 3/4"
5	15 3/4"

**NOTE -**  
**ENRICHED LAYER -**  
 Super saturated magnetite  
 plus copper interface  
 between Matte and Slag



**FIGURE 2**