County WABASH
T 27 N R 7 E
Sec NE NE NE 3
Other Survey

Quarry or Pit X Core Dim Other
Name Lagro Quarry and Plant
Former Names
Operator National Rock Wool Sales, INc.
Former Operators

COAL AND INDUSTRIAL MINERALS SECTION
INDIANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
611 NORTH WALNUT GROVE
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47401

MEMORANDUM REPORTS BY:

	Name	Date
1	G. E. Ericksen	July 4-5, 1947
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REMARKS

Huntington, Indiana
July 7, 1947

MEMORANDUM REPORT BY GEORGE E. ERICKSEN

NATIONAL ROCK WOOL SALES, INC., PLANT AND QUARRY AT LAGRO, WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA

Date of field examination: July 4-5, 1947

PLANT

Mr. Paul Hines, Gen. Mgr., National Rock Wool plant, furnished information and conducted the writer through the plant.

Location. The plant is located at the northwest edge of Lagro, between the Wabash Railway and U. S. Highway #24, 6 miles east of Wabash, Indiana. Materials are shipped to and from the plant by rail and by truck.

Products. The plant manufactures and sells loose mineral wool, granulated mineral wool, and insulation batts.

Raw materials. Coal, coke, steel mill slag, and Mississinewa shale are used in the manufacture of mineral wool. Coke is purchased from Hickman Williams of Indianapolis, Indiana. Steel mill slag is furnished by the France Stone Company of Toledo, Ohio. Mississinewa shale is quarried one mile south of Lagro.

Process. The wool rock which is melted in the cupola consists of 2/5 parts of Mississinewa shale and 3/5 parts of steel mill slag. The cupola is charged by hand, with alternate layers of wool rock and coke. Ignition of the coke melts the rock which is tapped from the bottom of the cupola in a small continuous stream. The molten rock is blown into fibers by steam under 100 pounds pressure. A conveyer belt in the blowing room transports the loose wool to a fabricating room where it can be cut into sections and made into batts or carried on to granulators where it is broken up and screened to remove the shot. Thickness of the wool batts can be controlled by varying the speed of the conveyer belt in the floor of the blowing room. The batts consist of loose wool with a tar paper backing.

Mr. Hines (personal communication) states that mineral wool made from pure Mississinewa shale is better grade than wool made from steel mill slag. However, wool made from shale is more expensive and price competition makes it necessary to use part slag.

Plant capacity. The plant has three cupolas, each of which produces 2500 pounds of loose wool per hour.

QUARRY

Location. The National Rock Wool quarry is located in the low escarpment which marks the south side of Wabash Valley, one mile south of Lagro. The quarry is 100 feet south of the Celotex quarry and in the NE¼NE¼NE¼ sec. 3, T. 27 N., R. 7 E. The rock is trucked 1-1/2 miles to the plant on State Highway #524. The quarry is approximately 175 feet long and 135 feet wide. See sketch map in the memorandum report on the Celotex plant and quarry.

Geology. The quarry is entirely in the Mississinewa shale and in the same stratigraphic position as the Celotex quarry. A section was not measured in the National Rock Wool quarry. For a description of the geology see the memorandum report on the Celotex plant and quarry.

Mining operations. Drilling and blasting is contracted with the Austin Powder Company of Michigan. 15-foot horizontal holes are drilled along the base of the east wall of the quarry and enough powder loaded to shoot down a block of rock 15 feet wide, 40 feet high, and 150 feet long. This supply of rock lasts about a year. No information is available on tonnage, but the quarry probably produces about 8,000 tons per year. The rock is loaded onto trucks with a small scoop which is mounted on a tractor.

Estimate of reserves. Approximately 75,000 tons of Mississinewa shale have been mined from the National Rock Wool quarry. An additional 300,000 tons, indicated ore, are still readily accessible.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Ericksen

George E. Ericksen
Geologist

Lagro

MEMORANDUM REPORT BY DUNCAN J. MCGREGOR

NATIONAL ROCK WOOL SALES, INC. PLANT AND QUARRY AT LAGRO, WABASH COUNTY

Loc. 83

Date of field examination. -- July 9, 1953.

Location. -- The quarry is located 100 feet south of the Celotex quarry and in the NE¼NE¼ sec. 3, T. 27 N., R. 7. E.

The memorandum report of George E. Ericksen dated July 7, 1947, contains complete information about the plant and quarry. The quarry is now abandoned and water covers the quarry floor making the walls inaccessible.

References cited. --

Ericksen, George E. (1947) National Rock Wool Sales Inc. Plant and Quarry at Lagro, Wabash County, Indiana, unpublished memorandum report, 3 pages.

Respectfully submitted,

Duncan J. McGregor

Duncan J. McGregor