

# Davenport 11-15-77 Lone Star Is Planning \$40 Million Modification

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Air pollution at Lone Star Industries' cement plant in Davenport will be significantly reduced with the \$40 million in modifications planned for the site, an environmental impact report has revealed.

Lone Star plans to increase the plant's capacity by adding high-efficiency equipment and also plans to convert the plant's primary fuel from heavy oil to coal.

Long subject to complaints about air pollution, Lone Star's plans will reduce by about 60 percent the principal sources of dust which currently dirties surrounding air, the report states.

This information should be a subject when the cement plant's pollution problems from dust in the atmosphere are discussed by the Santa Cruz Monterey County Air Pollution Control District board on Dec. 9.

The environmental impact report, prepared by the Environ Company of San Leandro, is part of Lone Star's application for a use permit to expand its operation.

The use permit tentatively is scheduled to come before the county planning commission on Dec. 14, with the commission taking a tour of the plant this Thursday.

If approved, the modifications and coal conversion should be started late this year and completed in 1980. The modifications will increase the plant's output from a current 475,000 tons of cement yearly, to about 775,000 tons annually.

Required air pollution controls have taken their toll on the operation, a company spokesman said. In 1971 production was cut drastically from an annual 600,000 tons when it proved unfeasible to install air pollution control devices on six old kilns, Lone Star's Regional Environmentalist Ralph Mitchell explained. The kilns subsequently were shut down.

The recently released environmental impact report states, "A very carefully conducted and thorough evaluation of existing and proposed atmospheric impacts indicates that the overall effect on air quality from the project will be beneficial."

It continues that the modifications will cause "a 28.5 percent net decrease in particulate emissions (dust), a substantial decrease in sulfur oxides and only a minor increase in nitrogen oxides."

"Most important, there will be a 60 percent decrease in the principal sources of the dust which is carried in the direction of Davenport by prevailing winds."

The conversion to coal, it's pointed out, will benefit the overall environment because coal is more energy efficient.

"Although there will be a total fuel increase of about 28 percent and a total electrical

power increase of about 61 percent, these will both be below the 63.2 percent increase in production capacity - resulting in a substantially decreased amount of energy required per unit of finished product," the report states.

The increase in energy used, however, will require another energy substation to be constructed and the conversion to coal will result in increased rail traffic and stockpiles of coal up to 25 feet high.

The modification plans also will have some negative environmental effects, the report points out. Waste deposits currently are dumped into a natural canyon and an increase in wastes will cause to more canyons to be filled, the report

states.

The filling of these canyons results in "completely eliminating the natural canyons and their biotic communities. The dry fills are to be capped with topsoil and seeded for revegetation," the report states.

The revegetated areas, it's pointed out, will not attract the same wildlife and birdlife the natural canyons attract. The filling of the canyons also will obliterate geological data evident on the canyon walls, the report adds.

The report said that mitigation of this negative effect on the environment is "limited" and could only suggest production of a different type of cement so wastes could be reintroduced into the kilns.

It's also pointed out that one pond in a canyon will be filled in, having an effect on the environment.

Due to larger trucks being purchased in the near future and increased use of the railroads, traffic congestion along Mission Street should not be significantly affected by the increase in operation, the report states.

There will be about a four percent increase in truck traffic on Mission Street and increased traffic during construction of the new facilities. The modifications won't increase the number of employees, so no new commuters will be added.