

Creating Demand for New FGD Gypsum Sources

Robert B. Bruce, PhD¹, David L. Tackett, P.E.²

¹Innogyps Inc., Unit 122, 7 Innovation Drive, Flamborough, Ontario, L9H7H9, Canada;

²Tailored Business Solutions, LLC, 479 Hickory Hollow Dr., Canfield, Ohio 44406-1050.

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ABSTRACT:

This paper will discuss the recent history of the supply and demand of FGD gypsum and possible new uses of future FGD gypsum supplies. Installation of SO₂ scrubbers to satisfy the Interstate Air Quality Rule will result in large quantities of high quality gypsum. The gypsum industry has refurbished /replaced / announced several wallboard plants to use these new supplies of FGD gypsum. The gypsum industry, however, will not be able to consume the entire future supply of FGD gypsum by building new wallboard plants. Gypsum has many proven applications, but other economically viable options have not been demonstrated on a scale to significantly impact on this impending surplus. If new gypsum markets are not developed soon, utilities will be facing the expansion/construction of waste disposal sites under environmental laws that are continuing to become more stringent. Waste disposal costs will continue to increase and will reach the range of \$20 - \$35 per ton of gypsum in the near future. The DOE has recognized this problem and set utilization targets. To successfully consume these new FGD gypsum supplies, the power plants must put in place a management structure to develop market and sell these FGD products; as well as to operate their power plants such that the FGD gypsum products consistently fall within tight customer's specifications. This paper will discuss some of the new products that utilities may be interested in making with their FGD gypsum and what utilities will have to do to produce, market and sell those products.

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