

Russell Finex

Case History



Zemex Plant increases throughput by almost 50% with the Russell Finex Separator”

Zemex Corporation is a leading producer of industrial minerals, which includes phlogopite mica, silica sand, kaolin clay and talc. The company’s Attapulgis site processes attapulgite clay (hydrous magnesium aluminum silicate) and sells it under trademarks such as EZ Gel and Super Gel B.

The plant employed five, 60” spring-suspension separators, with a 60 mesh screen, to remove agglomerates that formed in storage and to remove any debris that might have fallen in. But while the plant consistently turned out top-notch quality, quantity left something to be desired.

“What was hurting us was inadequate throughput,” recalls Tom Oldaker, plant manager of Zemex’s operations at Attapulgis, GA. “Within the small space that we had, the five separating machines could not handle enough capacity. Because of the constant screen ‘blinding’, we were only able to run at about 60-65% of potential capacity,” continues Oldaker. “If we tried to put four tons per hour through those screens, we’d get 2.5 tons of product and 1.5 tons of reject. Because we couldn’t get the material through the screens fast enough to meet sales demands, we were working a lot of daily overtime and a lot of weekends. It was a huge money loser for us”

“We sent samples of attapulgite to a handful of different manufacturers to let them run trials,” says Oldaker. “Russell Finex gave us the best price and the ability to handle the capacities that we were quoting.”

“After we replaced the five original separators with new ones from Russell Finex, we increased throughput by almost 50%,” notes Oldaker. “Per each screen, we can now get about 4 to 4.5 tons per hour. Our plant output has definitely increased.”

Russell Finex, Inc.
(704) 588-9808
sales@russellfinexinc.com
www.russellfinexusa.com