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Silver and Baryte North America Hurricane Ivan Encounter

Silver & Baryte (S & B) Industrial Minerals, North America, Inc. imports minerals for distribution in the eastern United States. Early in 2002 S & B approached Rubb about their need to build a bulk storage facility for perlite in the Theodore (Mobile) Alabama area.

Rubb proposed and subsequently built a 130' x 433' (56,333 ft²) BVE Range Rubb building at the port facility in Theodore. The building was designed to code which required the design to withstand sustained winds of 110 mph (130 mph 3-second gusts) and a live roof load of 12 psf.



Map source: Microsoft MapPoint
Data source: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

In September of 2004 the two year old structure was subjected to the fury of Hurricane Ivan. The hurricane with sustained winds of +135 mph came ashore from the Gulf of Mexico at Gulf Shores, Alabama; just across Mobile Bay from S & B's Rubb warehouse.



The track of the hurricane (see map) moved inland up the eastern shore of Mobile Bay and subjected the Rubb building to sustained winds 30 mph higher than the design wind speed. As the hurricane moved inland and people were able to return to the site they found the Rubb building intact and the perlite dry. The entire area surrounding the warehouse was heavily damaged.

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Mr. John Poulakis, Manager of Operations and Technical Support for S & B summed up his response for the building as follows:

Dear Mr Collins

Following up our phone conversation, I would like to inform you about the actual condition of the warehouse that you have erected for S&B industrial Minerals, N. America, Inc., in late 2002 at Mobile, Al, after the attack of hurricane Ivan.

According to Core Industries, which is our local stevedoring subcontractor, there are some minor leakings below the warehouse doors, especially at the east side, that eventually did not affect the quality of the material as it was stock piled more to the middle center of the space.



Structural wise the warehouse seems to be intact and no leakings from the roof or the sides were recorded.

Mid October I will go personally and inspect it in detail but I am not expecting any surprises.

This letter gives me the opportunity to express our company's satisfaction for the quality of the work you have accomplished at this site and validate the outstanding working efficiency that this structure can provide.

Please accept my regards

Dr John Poulakis
S&B Industrial Minerals N. America, Inc.
Manager
Operations/Technical Support