



## Almaplex<sup>®</sup> Industrial Lubricant (1299)

*Vital Earth Resources – Big Sandy, Tex.*

### *Vermeer Tub Grinders*

- Reduced operating temperatures
- Increased bearing life
- Reduced lubricant consumption

#### *Customer Profile*

Vital Earth Resources is a major producer of quality soils and fertilizers, both organic and chemical. They use LE products almost exclusively, and have since the startup of the company in 1983. Prior to that time, the owners used LE products in another company, Luckwood, Inc. Luckwood, an excavating and paving business was incorporated in 1977, and in the '80s was named a Fortune 500 company. One of the founders of Luckwood and Vital Earth was the late Buck Hammer. Buck's sons and daughter-in-law, Scott, Terrie, and Kerry Hammer currently operate and manage Vital Earth Resources. Scott, president, is a true believer that LE products do protect their very expensive equipment. Their equipment includes a digester (a 120' long composting vessel), tub grinders, screens, hammer mills, conveyors, dump trucks, tractor/trailers, loaders, etc.

Their customer base is nursery and professional landscapers in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

#### *Application*

Vital Earth use three Vermeer tub grinders, a Brawny TG400, a model TG525 and a Morbark 1300 to grind or split large pieces into usable material.

#### *Challenge*

The Hammer Mill support or carrier bearings were not a major problem, however they felt improvement was possible. The units take a beating because of foreign material that gets sent into the unit (chunks of steel or cast iron) knocking off hammer heads and leaving the mill off balance. This created vibration that caused tapping on the bearings and created high heat before the bearing failure that was occurring every 8 to 10 months. The bearing temperatures (185°-200°F) (85°-93°C) would elevate when these hammer heads were knocked off, even with daily relubrication.





### LE Solution

Walter Morman, LE lubrication consultant recommended Almaplex® Ultra-Syn Lubricant (1299), which is engineered to provide optimum performance capabilities under extreme equipment operating conditions.

### Results

Since the conversion to Almaplex 1299, temperatures have dropped to 145°-160°F (63°-71°C), even when a little out of balance. They are now into the 11th month, with less grease being used to relubricate. This is due to the grease volatility being much lower and the Almaplex 1299 staying in much better than previous products.

Longer bearing life and less grease consumption is already being noticed. When they make the 16 month point on a set of bearings, the cost savings will be tremendous.

A set of bearings costs \$1,350 in addition to downtime at \$450 per hour, around 7 hours, approximately \$4,050. In a 16 month period that would be a savings of approximately \$5,400.

BJ Bojachier, maintenance engineer says, "Put LE in your equipment and you can go on home and sleep at night!"

### Other Products Used

- Almasol® Pure Mineral Gear Lubricant (401)
- Almasol® Worm Gear Lubricant (460)
- Monolec® Gear Lubricant (703-704)
- Almaplex® Industrial Lubricant (1275)
- Duolec® Vari-Purpose Gear Lubricant (1607)
- Wirelife® Monolec® Wire Rope Lubricant (2001)
- Monolex® Penetrating Oil & Lubricant (2059)
- Nutrigent Industrial Cleaner (2100)
- L-X® Heavy-Duty Chemical Supplement (2300)
- Almagard® Vari-Purpose Lubricant (3751-3752)
- Monolec® Multiplex Lubricant (4622)
- Pyroshield® Syn Open Gear Grease (5180 & 5182)
- Monolec Ultra® Engine Oil (8800)
- Syntemp® Synthetic Lubricant (9102)

*Thank you to Scott Hammer, Terrie Hammer, Kerry Hammer, BJ (Donald) Bojachier, maintenance engineer, and to Walter Morman, LE lubrication consultant (pictured), for providing the information used in this report.*



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SIC 2875  
LI70653 11-07