Rock Flour, Fine Powdred Barite, Produced At Kings Creek

As early as 1908 a pure white rock flour was produced at Kings Creek. As a result of the gradual depletion of the natural deposits, the mine was closed in 1921.

The mine was re-opened in 1928 under the leadership of L. O. Wille, president. The property was transferred to the Wille family in 1935 and has remained under their ownership ever since.

The ore is crushed in a rod mill to liberate the barite and then ground in a closed circuit producing a product that is finer than applicable, because original production problems were simple, the ore was ground in a red mill to liberate the barite.

A flotation process brings the barite to the surface at the rate of 100 tons per day, which produces about 5000 tons of barite per week.

The flotation process is carried out in a series of tanks, each of which contains an agitator that mixes the ore and water to create a slurry. The barite settles to the bottom of the tank and is then pumped to a classifier, which removes any impurities. The resulting barite is then dried in a series of rotating drums.

The barite is then ground in a series of mills to produce the finest powder, which is used in industries such as rubber, paint, and roof shingles. The barite is then shipped to customers all over the world, where it is used in a variety of applications.

The Kings Creek Barite Mine continues to produce high-quality barite for the industrial market, and new exploration is ongoing to further increase production.