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**A REPLY TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE PAPER "THE EFFECT OF ILMENITE
PLANT DUST ON RHEOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF CLASS G OILWELL
CEMENT SLURRIES" BY JOHN BENSTED**

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I would like to thank Dr. Bensted for his interest in our study on evaluating ilmenite plant dust as an alternative to barite as weight material for well cements.

I would first like to comment that the study is of course based on the same basic requirements as given by Dr. Bensted.

Dr. Bensted suggests that we should have tried to optimise the ilmenite dust for practical usage. This is technically correct. It is possible to recycle the dust in the ilmenite plant operation. In that respect, the ilmenite plant dust has a bulk value not significantly lower than the bulk value of barite. If we have to process the dust further, physically or chemically, we would have increased the "production cost" of the dust to an unsatisfactory level. Therefore, it is desirable to use the dust as collected to make sure that it is economically favourable.

We have not considered using the ilmenite plant dust as a weight material for lost circulation purposes as suggested by Dr. Bensted. This suggestion is very interesting and we will try to evaluate this idea further.