Leprino Foods Cheese and Whey Plant

**Contractor:** Lamar Construction  
**US SPEC Products:** Transpatch and GP Grout  
**Date of Completion:** 2013

Lamar Construction, based out of Hudsonville, MI, is building the new Leprino Cheese and Whey facility in Greeley, CO. The plant is located at the former Great Western Sugar Factory site at 13th Street and US 85 in east Greeley. The first phase of construction includes a 150 ft. tower and the initial 100,000 - 200,000 sq. ft of its facility. At full build-out in 2013, the plant will be 700,000 sq. ft. and 1,750 ft. long - nearly six football fields. The first phase is scheduled to open in November, 2011.

Leprino is the world’s largest manufacturer of mozzarella cheese. The Greeley plant will produce cheese and whey products and will be the second largest facility of its kind in the world. They will need about 120,000 - 130,000 head of cattle to supply the milk needed for the products.

This facility is being constructed using precast panels manufactured by Rocky Mountain Prestress, out of Denver, CO. They do not plan to coat the building with paint or any other materials. This means the concrete will stay exposed to view. With this type of construction, any patching materials will also be left exposed. Lamar turned to US SPEC for help after not finding a patch that matched the existing panels. After trying several different patching products by other manufacturers, patching crews found US SPEC Transpatch to be their top choice. However, the color was still slightly off. US SPEC had a representative visit the project to get a color sample. They were brought back to the US SPEC lab so a color match could be made.

US SPEC custom colored a “Transpatch Lamar” and had samples sent to the site for a mock-up. After placing the material and allowing it to cure, its final color was an approved match. This material is being used on site to fill in the steel plates that are welded to connect the panels after standing. These attachment points can be found on both the exterior and interior of the project. With the custom colored material, these attachment areas are minimally visible.

Another area of the project where US SPEC was able to help was the grout for the base of the panels. These panels needed a grout placed under them to transfer the load to the foundations so the panel weight is evenly distributed. US SPEC GP Grout was selected for its high strength and consistency. Lamar was using 50 lb. bags, but found themselves wasting material as small partial bags were a hassle to move around the job site.

US SPEC offered to place the material in 3000 lb. supersacks and loan a silo to Lamar Construction. This allowed the use of a larger mortar mixer right under the silo, creating a dedicated area on the site for grout mixing. One man could load and mix the material. It would then be transferred to the work location via a mortar tub and fork lift. Using this system, Lamar reduced the waste on the project by eliminating the small bags. The customer also received a small cost savings by purchasing the material in bulk bags.

In addition to these items, Maxcure Resin Clear, Maxcure Wax White, STR Mortar and Quick Set 20 were also used on this project.