FILE NAME: Powhatan (PHN)

DATE: 1958

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DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND AIR POLLUTION
INVESTIGATION OR SERVICE

Date 8/19/58 By JAB

6721 Windsor Mill Rd (St Lukes Lane)

Plant POWHATAN MINING Co. Industry Asbestos

Address Windsor Mill & St. Lukes Roads, Woodlawn County Baltimore

Number of Employees: Male 10 Female 2 Total 12

Purpose	Number Involved	Persons Interviewed	Reason
Survey		Miss Mett	Self initiated ✓
✓ Reinspection	10	D. Smith, Foreman	O.D. Report
Study			Complaint-Request
Follow-up		Occupational Disease	Management
Consultation			Labor
Special Activity			Neighbors
Project Activity			Health Office
			Other

Recommendations Regarding Environmental Problems

Problems	Number Affected	Requested Improvement	Date Completed
New			
Sanitation	10	New toilet facilities	
Past - Completed			Made
Uncompleted			
0			

Field Studies: No. Involved

Atmospheric Contaminants:

Physical Conditions:

Samples submitted for analysis:

File Memo ✓; Plant Record ___; Letter W rec; Report ___; Next Visit 8/59

Reviewed

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M - 3/57

September 5, 1958

Mr. Fred A. Mett
Powhatan Mining Company
Woodlawn
Baltimore 7, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mett:

We wish to thank you for the cooperation and courtesies shown one of the men of our Division on August 19, 1958, during his reinspection of your plant. This reinspection was made as a part of our program for controlling conditions which may adversely affect the health of workers.

Industrial Hygiene

During the survey it was observed that the installation of new equipment was nearing completion. The placing in operation of the new facilities, including the dust control system, should go a long way towards eliminating possible asbestosis hazards and improving the working environment in general. Any recommendations of an industrial health nature will be deferred until the new equipment is seen in operation.

Sanitation

As you no doubt realize, the present male toilet facilities are quite inadequate and insanitary. The place is ankle-deep in old newspapers presumably used in lieu of tissue paper. Swarms of flies infest the area, no provision being made to eliminate them. Hand washing facilities are non-existent.

It is suggested that toilet facilities in accordance with modern standards of sanitation be installed. One commode and one urinal would be adequate for the present plant population. A wash stand

with hand-washing materials, such as soap and disposable towels in appropriate dispensers and a proper receptacle for disposal of used towels, should be provided. A copy of the Sanitary Code for Industrial Establishments, in which more details may be found, is enclosed for your guidance.

The purpose of the Division of Industrial Health is to assist industrial plants in all matters relating to occupational health. We hope that you will feel free to call upon us at any time that we may be able to serve you.

Very truly yours,

William F. Reindollar, Sc.D., Chief,
Division of Industrial Health
and Air Pollution

WFR*gsb

FILE MEMORANDUM September 5, 1958

Powhatan Mining Co.

A reinspection was made of this plant by JAB on 8/19/58. The plant is located about 50 yards down a lane which may be considered an extension of St. Lukes Road where it meets Windsor Mill Road in Woodlawn. As the owner, Mr. Fred Mett, was visiting North Carolina his daughter was interviewed. She turned the writer over to the foreman, a Mr. Dennis Smith, for the plant survey.

Industrial Health

As described in previous trip sheets this plant is involved in the production of asbestos fiber. Asbestos rock, received from North Carolina, Brazil, Bolivia, Central Africa and other points, after being wet down to control dust, is crushed in a ball mill, dried on a coal-fueled fire box, milled in a rod mill, screened, and bagged for shipping. Asbestos, intended for filtration, is digested for 24 hours in 20% hydrochloric acid, heated by steam, in out-door pots, washed, and dried preliminary to final screening and bagging.

Much effort has been put in to controlling dust at the various operations. It is believed, however, that exposure hazards still exist at the screening and bagging areas. The men working at these points are supplied with MSA respirators for toxic dusts bearing Bureau of Mines approval numbers 2101, and 2166 A supplied with filters numbered 2130, 2147 and 2166. The men were observed to be wearing their respirators. It was stated that all production employees are given chest x-rays by the Tuberculosis Survey Unit every six months.

The installation of new equipment, discussed in previous trip sheets, seems to be slowly nearing completion. A new drier, rod mill and dust collector are already in place. It is hoped that the new facilities will be ready for use in a few months. All provisions have been made for the greatest possible dust control we were assured. Moving the acid treatment operation to new facilities, indoors, is planned.

Sanitation

Sanitation facilities for the men are of the most primitive kind. Situated in a weather-beaten shack they consist exclusively of a two-hole plank placed over two pits dug in the ground. The place was ankle-deep in old newspapers presumably used in lieu of tissue paper. Swarms of flies infest the area, no provision being made to keep them out. No washing facilities were provided. Because of the nauseating condition of the premises, one man stated that he planned his day so that he never had to use them.

Mr. Bingley states that pit privies are acceptable in this area. However, it is thought that a recommendation should be made to the effect that modern toilet and washing facilities be installed. A copy of the proposed Sanitary Code for Industrial Establishments should be forwarded to the Company.

JAB.

JAB*gsb 9/5/58