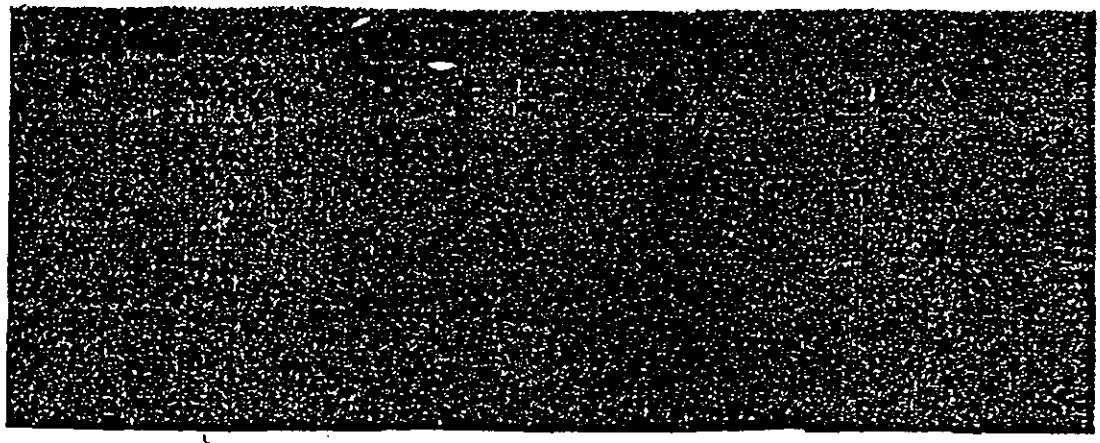


Document No. 8.
Exhibit "9"

STATE MINING ENGINEER,
Mines Department,
PERTH.

KALGOORLIE 13th October, 1950.

Australian Blue Asbestos Mine -
Wittenoom Gorge.

Following an inspection of the underground workings and treatment plant at the above mine commencing 13th ultimo I have to report as follows :-

UNDERGROUND.

Since my previous visit in November, 1948 the general ventilation of the mine has greatly improved as evidenced by the fact, that intake and return volumes have been doubled.

For comparison purposes the volumes and temperatures recorded during previous survey are quoted in brackets.

Intake.	Return.
44,442 c.f.m.	48,230 c.f.m.
(24,288) "	(22,836) "

This improvement is mainly due to two factors, (1) connection of lower with upper seam by means of winzes, thus providing a second intake and (2) speeding up fan by changing to larger size pulleys 9¾" and 24". The 7½ H.P. motor has been replaced by one of 20 H.P. and S.W.G. was checked at 1" .

TEMPERATURES.

Intake	Return.
75°D - 55°W	77°D - 63°W
(79°D - 62°D)	(78°D - 63.5°W)

Previous survey was carried out at approximately same time of year, and temperatures throughout the workings were found to be satisfactory.

During the survey dust samples were obtained and registrations were very low.

No. 1 Drive.

Machine working 96 p.p.c.c.
77°D - 70.5°W

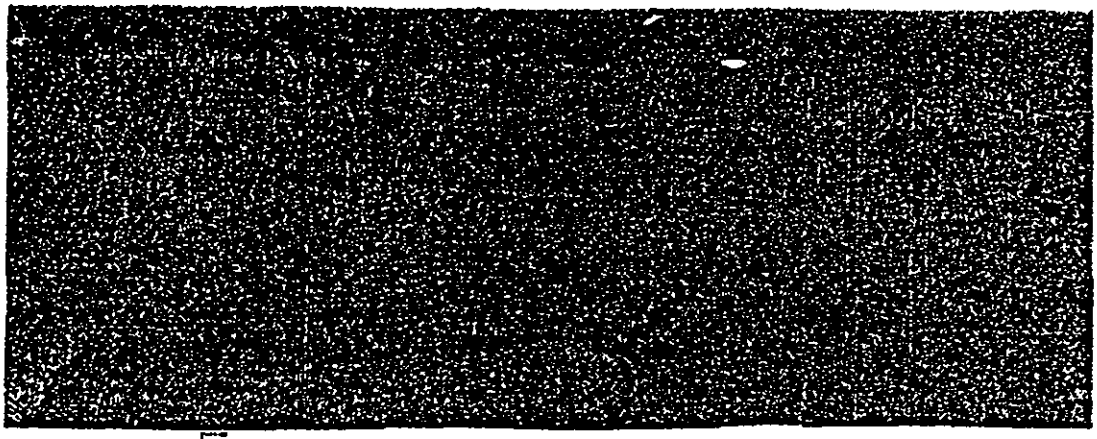
17/50 Stope.

2 Machines working 82 p.p.c.c.
79°D - 73°W

6 Main Pillar.

Machine working 60 p.p.c.c
80°D - 70°W

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
10593.0



With a view to further improving ventilation conditions, it is the intention of the company to install a 60" Axial Flow fan to act as a booster at a point near the present line of face in the Upper Seam, the main intake for this fan being provided by a series of winzes from the Lower Seam.

Although the new method of development has reduced the height of working places to 3' - 6" it would be assumed the resistance of the mine would increase appreciably but as already mentioned the S.W.G. is only 1" and as the present fan is capable of delivering 70,000 c.f.m. at 2", adequate ventilation is assured for some time even without the installation of a booster.

Ventilation conditions throughout the mine were found to be most satisfactory.

TREATMENT PLANT.

From a dust point of view conditions in the Mill have definitely worsened since my previous visit as illustrated in the following 15 samples.

No. 1 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 3 grade bagging station during normal operations.

The bagger is in this section constantly only moving away from it to stack the bags.

No. 2. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 3 grade bagging station immediately after a cyclone had been discharged.

This releases extra fibre and conditions are more dusty after this has been done.

No. 3. 560 p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 5 shaker screen.

One of the operators normal duties is to knock the screen and it was in this position the sample was taken.

Operator would be in this area 6 times per shift. Wind blowing away from Konimeter when sample was taken.

No. 4 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at Bagging Trommel cleaning door.

Fine material from the trommel passes through the screen and is deposited in the hopper.

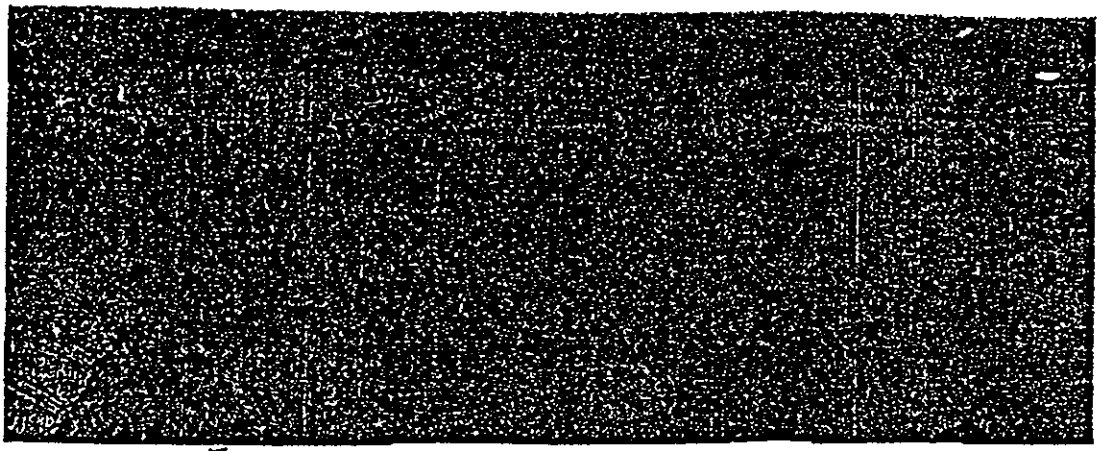
Operator's job is to rake this material out and barrow it away.

The trommel is in motion while raking and operation entails 1½ hours per shift.

No. 5. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 3 Screen platform.

Operators also have to clean this screen, sometimes



Wind blowing directly into Konimeter when sample taken.

No. 6. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 4 Screen near suction hood.

Part of operator's duties is to inspect screen and hood occasionally.

Wind blowing directly into Konimeter.

No. 7. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken near No. 2 Rolls at discharge of No. 2 shaker screen.

This section is visited mainly by greaser about 5 times per shift.

No. 8 480 p.p.c.c.

Taken beside No. 3 Conveyor while feeding reject fibre back into process.

This point is also used for general inspections of feed rates occasionally during shift.

Wind blowing directly into Konimeter.

No. 9. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 2 Grade bagging station.

A man bags this fibre about 3 times per shift - takes about 1 hour overall.

Wind blowing directly into Konimeter.

No. 10. 1000 + p.p.c.c.

Taken at No. 1 Grade bagging station.

Similar to No. 2 Grade.

No. 11. 740 p.p.c.c.

Taken on platform beside No. 2 Rotex.

A man visits this point 4 times per shift for purpose of cleaning screens.

No. 12. 410 p.p.c.c.

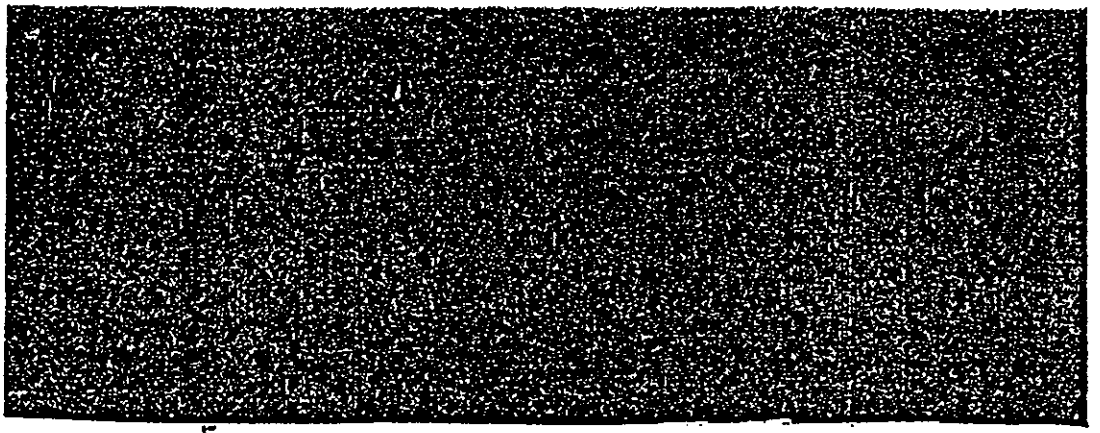
Crushing Section. Not operating on account of shortage of ore, but a small quantity of ore was fed through gyratory crusher to No. 1 conveyor feeding No. 1 Rolls, in order to obtain dust sample.

Point at which sample was obtained used mostly for inspection purposes.

No. 13. 210 p.p.c.c.

Power House. Taken beside V.E.R. 7 engine.

No. 14. 80 p.p.c.c.



All samples were viewed through the microscope by the Management.

At present 2 Warman dust collectors are on the lease and on arrival of 3 fans which will be installed in the roof of the mill for purpose of drawing off fibre, these Warman wet dust collectors will be put into operation.

It is the intention of the company that in future, control of dust will be done under the wet process and in order to minimise same, all waste rock will be eliminated before reaching the crushing section.

On completion of the new Power House which is being erected near the old Single Men's camp about ¼ of a mile from the mine the Electricians shop will be fitted out as a Dining room for surface workers.

At present there are 254 employees, comprising 152 Britishers and 102 Balts but even with this number of employees the mill is continually held up through shortage of ore.

Another feature which is hampering production is the high change-over in labour as most British workers leave the mine on completing the six months contract and to add further to the difficulties of operating this mine there is the ever present serious delay in delivery of equipment.

During my visit, permission was sought to install an underground Charging Station for locomotives. Such permission was granted on condition that a fan was installed to deliver return air and fumes into the main return airway at a point on the return side of primary fan.

Prior to leaving the centre, 3 candidates for Supervisors Certificate of Competency presented themselves for Oral examination, results of which have been forwarded to Secretary, Board of Examiners, Kalgoorlie.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.