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For information of Perth Office.

10 AUG 1960

PERTH, W.A.

Senior Inspector of Mines,
Mines Department,
KALGOORLY, W.A.

5th August, 1960.

Dear Sir,

We have to hand a letter from your Assistant Inspector, Mr. Simmonds, together with a copy of the results obtained from a survey carried out in this mine from 24th to 25th June, 1960.

We must firstly state that we are not at all satisfied with the results of the survey because of the unreliability of the air flow meter which was used and we do not agree with some of the remarks in the letter and the report.

In the letter, Mr. Simmonds mentioned "Negligible Airflow" referring to areas where he considered that the natural air currents cannot satisfactorily ventilate. The areas referred to are not ventilated by natural air currents but by the forced ventilation induced by the Main Fan, and when testing the flow in these areas Mr. Simmonds did not have the flame meter with him. The results obtained both in dust counts and temperature are equal to and better in most cases with results obtained by your Inspectors for comparable places taken at approximately the same time of the year in 1957 and 1958. We admit that the use of brattices or individual fans for each place would greatly improve the ventilation in such places, but we find that this is impracticable with our type of mining, which we think is unique in the State. Of the two places with 600 and 670 p.p.s.e. dust counts this area has already been fitted with a fan until a break through to 510 stops has been made, the No. 6 Ross Feeder will be attended to immediately.

The Air Flow meter used by your Assistant Inspector was reading 2% below our instrument which is the same type but a new instrument; also your instrument would not read on low velocities; and the offer of our instrument was refused by Mr. Simmonds even though he knew that his instrument was not reading correctly.

On the bottom of Mr. Simmonds report he explains the difference between intake and exhaust by stating that there was an intermittent flow from the exhaust fan. This is unlikely as we have voltage controls on our alternators and we would venture to say that if your Assistant Inspector obtained a reading indicating an intermittent flow it was due to his instrument or his method.