

FILE NAME: Powhatan (PHN)

DATE: 1946

DOC#: PHN006

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Govt Inspection Reports

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ent Bowdoin Mining Co Location Wind lawn Type of Industry Process Asbestos
 Employees 8 Source of Visit S.I. Service & Date Conf 5-14-66

Specific hazard or condition	Workers Involved	Recommendations				Workers Affected
		Made	Date	Accomplished	Date	
Asbestosis	5	Exh. vent.	1944	NO	11/24/46	

May 15, 1946

Mr. Fred Mett, Manager
Powhatan Mining Corporation
Woodlawn, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mett:

On May 14, 1946 an industrial health follow-up visit was made to your Company located at Woodlawn, Maryland. Procurement and installation of dust collecting equipment to control the asbestos dust was discussed, also the possibility of the Company moving the grinding operations from the State of Maryland to the State in which the material is mined. It is also contemplated that the grinding operations will be changed from the present system of dry-grinding to a wet process which would eliminate the dust.

Mr. Mett stated that he is not positive at this time of these contemplated changes, but would make his final decision in the next three to six months. At this time another conference will be held and in the event that the Company does remain in Maryland, members of this Division will be glad to be of any assistance in obtaining materials and making recommendations for dust control.

Very truly yours,

William F. Reindollar, Sc.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Industrial Health

WFR/A

November 20, 1946

Mr. Fred Mett, Manager
Powhatan Mining Corporation
Woodlawn, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mett:

An industrial health follow-up visit to
your plant is planned for Tuesday, November 26, 1946.

If this date is inconvenient, please let us
know.

Very truly yours,

William F. Reindollar, Sc.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Industrial Health

WFR/A

POWHTATAN MINING COMPANY

ACID PROOF ★ *Powminco Asbestos* ★ DIELECTRIC
WOODLAWN, BALTIMORE 7, MARYLAND, U. S. A.

November 25, 1946.

RECEIVED

State of Maryland
Department of Health
2411 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, 18, Maryland

NOV 25 1946

DIV. IND. HEALTH.

Attention: Mr. William F. Reindollar, Sc.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Industrial Health.

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of November 20.

We regret to advise that this date will be inconvenient, as I expect to be out of town. We would suggest making it a week later.

Please let us know before coming out.

Thanking you, we are

Yours very truly,

POWHTATAN MINING COMPANY

Fred A. Metz
Fred A. Metz

FAM:fem



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SERVICE DATA

Name of Plant Powhatan Mining Corporation Location Woodlawn Date Nov. 26, 1944
 Plant Official Mr. Fred. Mett Title Manager (+ Owner) Surveyed By B. R.
 Products Manufactured or Service Ground Asbestos (Comm'l + Purified) Hours Per Week 40 - 5 day week
 Number Employees 1 in plant Male 2 - acid wash Female 5 - grinding Female 2 - in office Number of Shifts 1

Type of Insurance

Medical Provisions	Safety Provisions	Environmental & Sanitation	Miscellaneous
Physician <u>No</u>	Safety Director <u>No</u>	Housekeeping <u>Poor</u>	Nutrition
Nurse <u>No</u>	Shop Committee <u>No</u>	Lighting <u>Fair</u>	Individual Lockers <u>No</u>
Hospital <u>No</u>	Insurance Co. Service	Heating	Rest Periods <u>No</u>
First Aid <u>Kit</u>	Other	General Ventilation	General Insurance
Pre-employment Examination <u>No</u>	Accident Experience F.R. - Plant Av. for Ind. S.R. - Plant Av. for Ind.	Drinking Water Source of Supply Type of Dispenser	Hazardous Chemicals Handled
Periodic Examination <u>No</u>		Washing Facilities	Fire Hazards
Other Services	Guarding of Machinery	Toilet Facilities	Protective Equipment
Remarks			

December 6, 1946

Mr. F. A. Mett, Manager
Powhatan Mining Corporation
Woodlawn, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Mett:

Enclosed is our report of the industrial health study made at Powhatan Mining Corporation. If there are any questions concerning it, please let us know.

Return visits will be made from time to time. If, at any time, we can be of service in regard to health hazards and problems in your plant, do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you for the courtesies shown us during our visit.

Very truly yours,

William F. Reindollar, So.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Industrial Health

WFR/A

December 6, 1946

To: Powhatan Mining Corporation
Woodlawn, Maryland

From: Maryland State Department of Health
Division of Industrial Health

Subject: Industrial Health Study

On November 26, 1946 an inspection and industrial health study was made at the Powhatan Mining Corporation, Woodlawn, Maryland. An interview was held with Mr. F. A. Mett, Manager, and problems relative to the industrial health of the workers were discussed. It was learned that plans have been made to move the asbestos refining plant out of the State sometime next spring. Operations remaining at Woodlawn will consist of some crushing and bagging, with no changes in the acid treatment house.

Findings. Samples of air taken at the breathing level of workers at three different locations in the plant revealed toxic concentrations of asbestos dust. Inadequate dust control and poor maintenance of machinery were the causes of the unhealthy workroom atmospheres found in all locations in the asbestos refining operation where dry methods are employed.

Dust counts were made on samples taken at three locations in the plant. The results of these counts are as follows:

Location	Number of Workers	Dust Concentrations Million Particles per Cu. Ft. Air
1. Crusher loading on main floor by means of shovel.	1	138
2. Bagging of asbestos on main floor	2	27
3. Bagging of fines and sand in basement	1	12

It will be observed that some of these values are higher than the findings of studies made in the past several years. This may be accounted for by the type of ma-

terial being processed. A second run was being made on asbestos material which had been previously crushed. Most of the rock and sand impurities had been removed, and the crude asbestos was dry and fluffy at the time of the study. It was learned that about half the operating time is used for second run material.

No changes in dust control equipment have been made since the last visit. Dust respirators are made available to the workers, but are not worn. They were observed lying in dusty locations in the workrooms, and were not used on even the dustiest jobs. The existing dust removal equipment is provided only for production purposes, and even this functions inefficiently. Bag filters are in the workroom, and all exhausts lead to a common chamber outside the basement of the building. Dust laden air escapes at a point near the ground, and blows back into the plant.

In addition to the recommendations made in the past for adequate dust control equipment in the plant, it is recommended that -

- (1) A stack be provided to exhaust all dust from the collectors and separators at a point above the roof of the plant.
- (2) Workers be required to wear their respirators on dusty jobs.