PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT CSR-345

(236)

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
[illegible].

KALGOORLIE:

15th January, 1963.

Dear Sir,

The following is a resume of the findings during my visit in November.

The recent cave-in has completely destroyed the original airflow system. A complete airflow survey was therefore done with the assistance of your ventilation Officer.

Just prior to this survey the primary exhaust fan at 12S cliff opening was dismantled and shifted to No. 4 level at 42S where it is now exhausting to the cliff opening. The volume exhausting was measured as 78,000 cusins. This fan is now working in series with the one sited on 5 level at 54S which was found to be drawing some 62,000 cusins into the mine via 54S surface rise.

Both fans are now working together in the ventilation of both seams. Owing to the limited number of break-throughs to the lower seam (two between Nos. 5 & 4 levels and one between Nos. 6 & 5 levels) only 14,200 cusins are being induced through these workings. Beside this of course is the quantity being given by the secondary ventilation, but as most work is from the upper seam, no great volume is involved.

The volumes measured were as follows:

INTAKE

Main Adit	9000	cusins
No. 1 level Cliff Opening	1000	cusins
No. 2 level Cliff Opening	4000	cusins
54 S Surface Rise	62,000	cusins
TOTAL	76,000	cusins

EXHAUST No. 4 level Cliff Opening 78,000 cusins

As the number of working faces have diminished and become more concentrated, the present volume of air is sufficient to maintain a satisfactory standard. Work in opening up more stopes etc. is progressing at a fast rate and within a relatively short time conditions will have deteriorated considerably.

Past experience has shown that the two fans in series does not increase the volume of air passing through the mine whereas when working in parallel the volume is virtually doubled. With this in mind it is of course necessary to evolve a plan whereby the fans can operate in parallel.

At present the number of openings to the surface are limited to three viz main adit, 4 level cliff and 54 S rise. If we are to again isolate the seams, which was highly successful before the collapse, then more openings to the surface are required. After a close check of all possibilities the soundest and quickest plan on which to concentrate is to extend 6 level south drive which is approx. 400 feet from a cliff break through.

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Beside providing another surface opening for ventilation purposes it would also provide another access to the mine which appears desireable, when one considers the possibility of a further collapse on No. 5 level. To shift the charging stations, change rooms and underground offices to here, instead of 4 level bench would appear a sounder and easier job. This, however, is for you to decide.

The time [illegible] appears opportune to start planning for a ventilation shaft in the north end of the mine. Owing to development work not being [illegible] enough advanced no specific site can be stipulated. Once development [illegible] driven north on Nos. 6 & 7 levels locate headings now being ore body possible sites for a shaft can then [illegible] of the [illegible]ssed.

If a shaft soley for ventilation is put through and from it, just north of the stoping area, a heading be driven soley as an airway with break-throughs to the mining sections, then a complete control over the airflows could be maintained. The installation of a large primary fan capable of exhausting 200,000 cumins or more would then virtually solve our present ventilation problems.

During this visit the opportunity was also taken to check the dustiness in the mill. Because of the reduced tonnage being put through it was thought the dust level would have decreased, but results proved the dust concentration to be as high or higher than usual. This apparently is because the material is being subjected to a greater degree of shaking thus liberating more dust.

Two sets of dust counts were taken on successive days. Because the first days results appeared excessive a check count was taken during the next day, but resulted in similar concentrations.

Average dust counts recorded are as follows:-

Overhaul	840 p.p.c.c.	(730)
Crushing Section	715 p.p.c.c.	(700)
Mill Section	950 p.p.c.c.	(760)

The figures in brackets are those recorded during the June, 1962 inspection and were the highest ever recorded prior to this inspection.

Attached is a copy of the recorded dust counts.

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.
(Ventilation)

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