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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Memorandum

MINES DEPARTMENT,

KALGOORLIE.

To: The State Mining Engineer,

2nd. April, 1962.

Mines Department,

PERTH.

PROPOSED PROSECUTIONS.

During my recent inspection of the current operation at Colonial Mine of Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd., at Wittenoom, various breaches of the Mines Regulation Act were observed as follows.

The following miners were found to be working at their faces without using the ventilation equipment supplied as required by Reg. 152 of the Mines Regulation Act.

H. LEWAS was boring a face some 200' from his vent. duct. Ample ducting was available because he extended it to his working face after we requested same. Pre-lunch period of Monday 19th March, 1962. SERGIO BIESA was boring a face some 70' from his vent duct. Ample ducting was available because he extended after we requested same. This man strongly refused to extend the ducting at first and it was only after a strong approach by us that he concurred. Pre-lunch period of Tuesday 20th March, 1962.

The following miners were found to be boring in butts or in the remaining portion of a hole in which a charge of nitro-glycerine compound had been exploded, contrary to Reg. 60 of the Mines Regulation Act. FOSTER LUTERO was seen boring in the remaining portion of a hole and had obviously also bored in the butt end of a remaining portion of another hole. Pre-lunch period Tuesday 20th March, 1962. VINCENT CRISCI was seen boring in a butt and had obviously bored in two other butts & three remaining portions of exploded holes. Post lunch period Wednesday 21st March, 1962.

As these offences plus others are far too prevalent on this mine and as repeated warnings from various inspectors of Mines, also Mine Personnel, are having negligible effects, I strongly recommend that above mentioned miners be prosecuted for the offences mentioned.

It appears that only by direct action on our part will the various mine employees realise their obligations and work according to the Regulations.

Mr. J. Hunt (Workmen's Inspector of Mines, Pt. Hedland), Mr. A.J. Murphy (Assistant Inspector of Mines, Ventilation) and Mr. A. Mulholland (Mine Ventilation Officer) were present at all the above breaches excepting the breach concerning H. LEWAS when Mr. J. Hunt was not present.

If required the above personnel can be summoned as witnesses on our behalf.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.
(Ventilation).