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AUSTRALIAN ELITE INDUSTRIES PTY. LTD.

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WHITFORTH COAL

IN REPLY PLEASE
NOTE - 044,774/1.

11 OCT 1961	4th. October, 1961.
FERNI	

The General Secretary,
The Chamber of Mines of N.A. (Inc.),
115 Egan Street,
KILCOO, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of your letters of 10th. September and 1st. October referring to ventilation.

We are most disturbed at the contents of the letters, and can assure you and the members of the Joint Safety Committee that every possible step is being taken to improve the ventilation.

We recently had a visit from the Senior Inspector of Mines, Mr. J. Bowland, and he made an inspection of the mine. He remarked that conditions were very much improved, but further improvement was required. His report stated that:-

- "I have noted several advantageous alterations and additions in the ventilation circuit, but much improvement is still required, and I wish to draw your attention to the following:-
- 1. Mill dust is still polluting the atmosphere.
- 2. Top priority must be given to the installation of the Fan on No. 3 level.
- 3. Both miners and supervisors must be educated on the necessity at all times of using ventilation and dust suppression equipment supplied."

The question of mill dust in the atmosphere is one which has been under discussion with Messrs. H.F. Gregory & Co., and R.W. Hart & Co., for nearly two years now. Discussions have also been held with officials of the Mines Department.

The fan referred to on No. 3 level is now running.

- 2 -

Since Inspector Simmons' report several breakthroughs have been made in various headings and ventilation has improved considerably particularly in 743 area where a breakthrough has been made to No. 6 Level. A breakthrough will be made today from 4000 to 51N area. On No. 1 Level in 41N where several counts of 1000+ were noted, a breakthrough has been made to No. 1 Level, and another one from No. 1 Level to No. 2 Level.

All of this work was in progress while Inspector Simmons was here, and it was described to him in detail. Also, atmospheric conditions generally while Simmons was here, were the worst that could be encountered. We feel that some mention of this could have been made.

Other comments on Simmons' report are:-

He makes mention that the step to reduce the long break between shifts to 1 hour was premature. We quote from District Inspector Ibbotson's report of 27.4.61 - "Provided that all 'blind' workings are equipped with effective compressed air lines to enable each working section to be blown out immediately after firing, it is permissible to revert to the 9.00 am commencement of day shift."

The dust entering the main adit through the Transfer bin has been stopped by enclosing the entry to No. 2 Adit.

The Committee will realise that the mine is expanding rapidly and proper ventilation circuits are planned and are commenced, but this work is not done in a short time. Again let us assure you that we have the work in hand and are doing everything possible to improve conditions. There is no shortage of equipment for ventilation work.

Yours faithfully,

AUSTRALIAN SLIMS ASSOCIATED PTY. LTD.

Sgt. G.I. HILL
BRIDGE.

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