EXHIBIT
CSR-203

150

KALGOORLIE.

The Manager, 19th September, 1960

Australian Blue Asbestos Limited,

WITTENOOM.

Dear Sir,

Further to our recent discussions on the Ventilation and general conditions of your Colonial Mine and Mill, I am forwarding herewith, the figures obtained during our recent inspections.

Before continuing, I wish to thank you for all the assistance given by yourself and your staff to myself and Inspectors Hunt and Simmons.

I fully realise that you will not be able to overcome your Ventilation problems in one move, and that it is possible that a change in future mining Policy may be necessary, and I wish you to know that if I, or any of my Inspectors can be of assistance to you in overcoming or rectifying your ventilation problems, my Department will be pleased to assist.

I must now draw your attention to the following and request that the various matters be rectified.

1. Mines Regulation Act, Regulation 153.
Records in my office show that Messrs. Spencer and Powell have been appointed Ventilation officers of your mine. I am aware that neither of these men are actively engaged as Ventilation officers.

An examination of your mine Ventilation Record Book showed that entries are not being made as required by Regulation 153.

I must request that a full time Ventilation Officer be appointed at your mine and that Regulation 153 be enforced in it's entirety.

2. Regulation 150 - Sub Sections 1 and 2.

Dust is being generated in your main Adit at points where bins feed on the belt, at the belt feed change over, and at your Main discharge. Air-water sprays are fitted at these points but as these sprays are positioned 'up-air current' some dust is escaping. I must request that similar sprays be also fitted on the lower side of each point.

Regulation 150 - Sub Sections (1) and (4).

Dust from your Mill Reclone exhausts is at times entering your mine workings via the Main Adit, and Nos 1, 2, 3, and 4 levels, and at other times polluting the air surrounding your mill. The natural conditions of wind will cause this to continue as long as dust escapes from your plant.

I must request that the exhaust dust be trapped to

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3. Regulation 135 and Regulation 141.

Men are not to work in positions underground unless those positions are ventilated as required by the Act and Regulations.

4. Regulation 139.

Air doors must be marked and operated as required by Regulation 139.

Regulation 152.

Secondary Ventilation in your No 6 South Drive was re-circulating. Ventilating machines must be positioned to prevent re-circulation.

Inspections undertaken on afternoon shift showed that conditions relating to smoke and dust were extremely unhealthy. My investigations indicated to me that a longer 'break' between day and afternoon shift would allow the 'fume' conditions to clear, and that the period necessary for this is two and one half (2½) hours.

It is suggested that a 'break' of 2½ hours between day shift firing and the commencement of afternoon shift would be of great benefit to the health and safety of the miners.

I also request, in accordance with Regulation 140, that up to date ventilation plans be kept at your mine.

I feel that there are several aspects on which this department may be able to give practical assistance to you. You told me that your underground staff was preparing a plan which would indicate your future underground layout. This should of necessity include intended ventilating circuits.

Might I suggest that you supply me with two copies of this plan. One copy would be handed to the State Mining Engineer and I would retain the other. The plans would be treated as confidential. Mr. Brisbane and I maintain close liaison on such matters and I am sure that if we are both conversant with your intended plans we will be in a better position to assist.

Yours faithfully,

SENIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES.

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