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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINES DEPARTMENT. KALGOORLIE.

C O P Y

The Manager,
Australian Bins Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTENBERG.

20th July, 1962.

Dear Sir,

I have now completed a detailed study of reports made by Departmental Ventilation Inspectors and discussed your Mine Workings with all Inspectors of Mines concerned.

Tests made by our Ventilation Inspectors on your Mine Air during the period 15th June, 1962 to 21st June, 1962 show that the dust content of the mine air has generally increased.

The Inspectors report that the general observance of the Mines Regulation Act was at the highest level yet seen in your mine and therefore the increased dust content of the air can only be due to Mining methods employed.

These methods require extraction by Underhand stoping or that the stopes face advances away from the surface outcrop.

Our Inspections carried out over a long period have shown that these stopes cannot be ventilated adequately.

I must refer you to Regulations 145, 147, 148 and 149 of the Mines Regulation Act No. 54 of 1946-1961. These regulations read collectively require that fresh air be taken directly to your innermost or deepest levels, that sufficient of this fresh air be split and taken to each working level from where it will be controlled to ventilate the workings off such level and then return to the surface by direct course; that there will be no re-circulation of air.

Your present mining methods do not allow these requirements to be fulfilled.

Secondary ventilation introduced into your stopes has not proved adequate.

I must therefore notify you by Virtue of Section 22 of the Mines Regulation Act 1946-1961 that your present stoping methods are dangerous or defective so as in my opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of persons employed therein. The nature of such danger or defect is the high dust content in the air breathed by employees.

I must therefore request that no new stopes be commenced or operated by underhand stoping methods, or that the faces of any new stopes be worked advancing away from the main bench face.

All new stopes must be worked from the respective levels furthestest from the surface outcrop or bench face and advanced towards the upper level or bench face by such methods as to allow for a free flow of fresh air from the deepest part of the mine to the surface exhaust.

The high general dust content of the mine air especially at places such as ore transfer points and ore bins indicates that water sprays are not being operated correctly.

The work of isolating the ventilation of the upper and lower seam workings is not yet completed, and such recirculation is taking place.

This work was commenced many months ago and should have been completed long ago. Inspectors of Mines will in future stop work in any place in which inadequate ventilation or air recirculation is found.

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On 6th November, 1961, I wrote you regarding dust generally and specifically mentioned dust arising from the tailings at the tailings bin, tailings dump and areas built up with mill tailings.

During my recent visit I noticed dust arising from all three points. If this dust is not eliminated, I will have no alternative other than to close these sections and institute prosecutions.

Please ensure that water sprays are correctly installed and constantly used on all surface bins to prevent dust escaping into the atmosphere.

No attempt had been made to isolate dust arising from your new bagging section. This work must be undertaken forthwith.

Notwithstanding that you have specialists testing a new dust extraction process, it must be clearly understood that whilst this test is being made, it is necessary to prevent or control dust at all points not under the control of your present dust extraction units.

In future if an Inspector of Mines finds dust arising, he will stop the unit concerned.

Yours faithfully,

J. BOYLAND
SENIOR INSPECTOR OF
MINES.

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WILSONS.

20th July, 1962.

The Manager,
Australian Blue Selection Ltd.,

WILSONS.

Dear Sir,

I have not completed a detailed survey of the mine made by Departmental Ventilation Inspectors and discussed your mine workings with all Inspectors of this district.

Tests made by our Ventilation Inspectors on your mine air during the period 15th June, 1962 to 21st June, 1962 show that the dust content of the mine air has generally increased.

The Inspectors report that the general observance of the Mines Regulation Act was at the highest level yet seen in your mine and therefore the increased dust content of the air can only be due to mining methods employed.

These methods require extraction by Underhand stoping or that the stopes face advances away from the surface outcrop.

Our inspections carried out over a long period have shown that these stopes cannot be ventilated adequately.

I must refer you to Regulations 145, 147, 148, and 149 of the Mines Regulation Act No. 34 of 1946-1961. These regulations read collectively require that fresh air be taken directly to your innermost or deepest levels; that sufficient of this fresh air be split and taken to each working level from where it will be controlled to ventilate the workings off such level and then return to the surface by direct course that there will be no re-circulation of air.

Your present mining methods do not allow these requirements to be fulfilled.

Secondary ventilation introduced in the past to all has not proved adequate.

I must therefore notify you by virtue of section 22 of the Mines Regulation Act 1946-1961 that your present stoping methods are dangerous or defective so as in my opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of persons employed therein. The nature of such danger or defect is the high dust content in the air breathed by employees.

I must therefore request that no new stopes be commenced or operated by Underhand stoping methods, or that the faces of any new stopes be added progressively away from the main bench face.

All new stopes must be worked from the main active levels furthest from the surface outcrop or bench face and advanced towards the upper level or bench face by such methods as to allow for a free flow of fresh air from the deepest part of the mine to the surface exhaust.

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The high general dust content of the mine air especially at places such as ore transfer points and ore bins indicates that water sprays are not being operated correctly.

The work of isolating the ventilation in the upper and lower main workings is not yet complete, and air circulation is taking place.

This work was commenced some time ago and will have been completed by now - inspection of the mine will in future stop work in any place in which there is ventilation or air recirculation is found.

On 6th November, 1961 I wrote to you regarding dust generally and specifically mentioned dust arising from the tailings at the tailings bin, tailings dump and areas built up with mill tailings.

During my recent visit I noticed dust arising from all three points. If this dust is not eliminated I will have alternative other than to close those sections and initiate prosecutions.

Please ensure that water sprays are correctly installed and constantly used on all surfaces liable to prevent dust escaping into the atmosphere.

No attempt had been made to isolate dust arising from your new bagging section. This work must be made known forthwith.

Notwithstanding that you have agreed to the dust extraction process it must be clearly understood that whilst this work is being made it is your duty to prevent or control dust at all points not under the control of your present dust extraction units.

In future if an Inspector of Mines finds dust arising he will stop the unit concerned.

Yours faithfully,

CHIEF OF POLICE