PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
10228.0

State Mining Engineer,
Mines Department,
Perth.

Kalgoorlie 23rd February, 1948

Australian Blue Asbestos Mine - Wittenoom Gorge.

Commencing on the 15th ultimo an inspection was made of the underground and surface arrangements of the above mine relative to ventilation and dust.

Underground.

The workings are laid out with three main headings extending some 850 feet from the entrance to the adits, two of which serve as the main intake and return airways, the third is sealed off at a point 70 feet from the entrance and serves as a capping station.

The method of development is roughly on the Bord and Pillar system with flood lighting in each bord.

The three main headings and gunnon bords serve also as the haulage planes along which a diesel locomotive operates and transports the ore and mullock direct from the face to a bin situated on the "bench" in close proximity to the mill.

Ventilation of the mine is per medium of a Richardson Limit Load fan operating at 440 r.p.m. with a rated maximum capacity of 20,000 c.f.m. and is powered by a 7½ H.P. motor at 1400 r.p.m.

The point of installation is at a coordinate position of 800 West and 150 North and all development ends are ventilated by electric mill exhaust fans coupled to 8" victuallic pipes laid along the floor of the bord to which are attached venturi cloths.

At time of inspection the volume entering the mine was 15,000 c.f.m. and on the return side 21,000 c.f.m. with an intake temperature of 89°D - 67.5°W whilst on the return side the temperature recorded was 82° D - 68° W.

Temperatures throughout the mine were found to be satisfactory with an average difference in R.H. of 4 degrees.

During the course of the inspection it was noted the diesel loco was operating up to the end of road at face and the attention of the manager was drawn to this fact. In reply to a question as to the number of occasions it would be necessary for the loco to enter each bord per shift I was informed 3 to 4.

The grade being definitely in favour of the load and the large and heavy trucks in use it would be impossible to get the empties into the face otherwise than by mechanical haulage.

As I understand special permission was granted to the Company to use diesel locomotion underground and although the fumes do cause a slight smarting of the eyes if one is compelled to follow the loco into a bord as was my experience I would not be prepared to issue a statement that such volumes would constitute

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a danger to the health of the men unless same had been ascertained by chemical analysis. I therefore respectfully suggest that air samples be obtained from bords during the period the loco is operating therein.

With regard to dust in the working places, with one exception, counts were in the vitinity of 300 p.p.c.c. and under. The one exception was registered in Bord No. 6 right and resulted in a sample of 1000 + due to the machinesman operating at the extreme right hand side of the bord; whilst the venturi lying on the beeken dirt and therefore the air flow being thus retarded was at the extreme left hand side.

A request was entered in the Record book that venturi cloths ... must be kept up to face and suspended.

Apart from the question of fumes from the diesel loco in development ends and the suspension of venturi cloths the condition of the ventilation was found to be satisfactory.

Surface.

At time of inspection the Mill was idle owing to a decision to change the screens for purpose of combating waste in the tails and therefore I was unable to obtain dust samples in the Messroom which is adjacent to the Mill.

However there was sufficient evidence of dust in the building to warrant a request that after one week the new Dining room, situated some ⅔ of a mile from the mine should be made available.

Following on inspection of the new building in company with the Manager, I was given an assurance that immediately the electrician had completed the wiring the request would be acceded to.

At the present time there are 120 men employed, 50 underground and 70 on surface.

On completion of the inspection, matters requiring the attention of the Manager were entered in the Record book.

Attached please find copy of plan setting out the system of ventilation and position of main and auxilliary fans.

J.G. Lloyd.

District Inspector of Mines.

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