

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1958 Oct 29

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RE Dust Collection Inspection Results

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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"BLUEASBESTOS" WITTENOOM

AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED
31 OCT 1958
PERTH, W.A.

WITTENOOM GORGE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRIVATE.

The Director,
Australian Blue Asbestos Limited,
PERTH, W.A.

P.787.
29th October, 1958.

Dear Sir,

DUST COLLECTION: Your P.380. I am enclosing a copy of the Mines Inspector's latest report on conditions. As you will see, he makes very little mention of the dust nuisance in either Mill and during my discussion with the two Inspectors after their inspection, I gathered the impression that they were quite satisfied.

As I informed you during one of your recent visits, the previous report by Hunt was not good but as he said then "I am not interested in what conditions were yesterday or what steps you are taking to improve things. I was told to come here and report on conditions exactly as I find them at the time of my visit." His attitude generally was one of antagonism as he made reference even to men sweeping the floors - he said "...even there men are producing dust and all spillage of dust must cease so that there will not be any need for sweeping."

During the visit of the two Inspectors our relations were more cordial. The conditions in the new Mill were excellent - the Treatment Section was quite clear, the middle section was closed down as the result of the fires in the drier (all of the electrical circuit was out) and the top Crushing section was very good. The only thing they mentioned was the possibility of the exhaust dust getting into the Colonial mine and various means of preventing this were discussed. All alterations requested by Hunt had been carried out.

The Wittenoom Mill was satisfactory. Ibbotson said that he did not think the Rotoclone operators were doing the job properly and the would not get full marks from him. I cannot understand the remark - "...pressure gauges are not functioning" because there are no pressure gauges in the Rotoclones. He was referring to the sight glasses which in reality are only a guide to filling and the fact that they are not there does not affect the working in any way whatsoever. The Rotoclones are controlled from the ammeters and at the time of his visit all Rotoclones were working satisfactorily. Neither Inspector has yet become familiar with the working of the Rotoclone and I consider their remarks are made without full knowledge. They expect to see a clear discharge to atmosphere.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
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PERCIVAL-Bayonne, N.J.

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Wittenoom/Perth.
P.787.
29th October, 1958.

Bands in the ductwork were worn through but pending the manufacture of new ones the holes were covered with rubber and neatly bound.

The only other thing Ibbotson commented on was that we were making first grade fibre inside the plant. He considers it should be outside. He said - "...why mess up a clean plant by blowing dust into it."

At no time during the discussions did he intimate to me or any of the Staff that he was concerned about the plant. It seems a very poor method of doing things - to run to his superior officer and complain instead of telling the people on the job. I understand from his letters to us and from his conversations that he has plenty of authority to tell us what to do.

The dust control in both plants is good and is being carefully watched. I am fully aware of the importance of this control but Mr. Brisbane's statement "...that the dust nuisance is beyond the limit that can be permitted" certainly astounds me.

Concerning Ibbotson's last report, I remarked to him that thing must be good if he has to refer to guards and things and he replied - "....they are, but the guards and handrails need attention".

I am quite satisfied that the dust control here at present would meet with the approval of anyone who has knowledge of mining plants and I feel that you could assure Mr. Brisbane that the position is well under control.

Yours faithfully,
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

W. H. H. H.
Acting Manager.

OAA/MS.