

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1961 Oct 9

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Cover Letter

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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In reply, please quote

Correspondence will greatly facilitate the
operation of this system.
Confidentiality letter to one person.
Writing on one side only of the paper.

MINES DEPARTMENT, KALGOORLIE

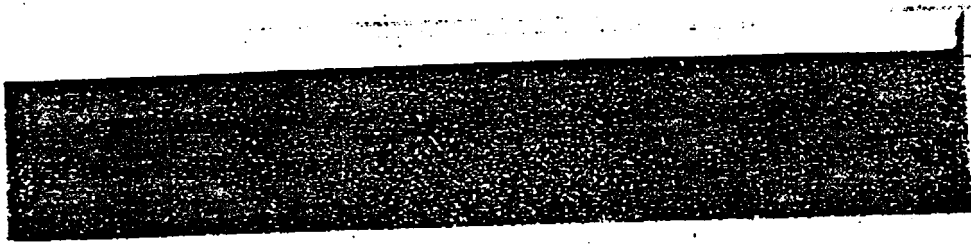
11th October, 1967

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The District Inspector of Mines,
Mines Department,
C U E.

Enclosed, please find a copy of my
communication to The Manager of Australian Blue Asbestos
Limited re my recent inspection.


DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.
(Ventilation).



PENGAD-Bayonne, N. J.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

104400

9th October, 1961.

Dear Sir,

Following my recent inspection of your mine and after correlating all the facts and figures, I wish to advise you as follows:

The shorter break between day and afternoon shifts appears to have been a retrograde step, although conditions now are better than before the 2 1/2 hour break.

The following figures should be of interest:

Average dust count on day shift for		June 1960	230	p.p.c.c
		November 1960	180 <td>p.p.c.c</td>	p.p.c.c
		August 1961	420 <td>p.p.c.c</td>	p.p.c.c
	afternoon	November 1960	110 <td>p.p.c.c</td>	p.p.c.c
		August 1961	630 <td>p.p.c.c</td>	p.p.c.c

During November 1960, the 2 1/2 hour break between day and afternoon shifts was in force, whilst during August 1961 the 1 hour break was in force. No figures are available for afternoon shift before the longer break started, therefore no comparative figures are available. It can easily be seen how conditions have worsened on afternoon shift since going back to the shorter break and therefore serious consideration should be given toward reverting to the longer break as soon as possible.

From visual observations the mine air appeared much more dust laden during this inspection than any previous inspection. This point is also borne out by the recorded dust counts, also the average counts shown above. Possibly the main reason is that production during this inspection would be at it's highest level ever, and as a continual increase in production is envisaged, conditions can be expected to deteriorate further unless some positive action is undertaken.

Most dust appears to originate from scraping operations outside sources, and operations in the main edit. By virtue of the present stoping methods, all stoping workings underground must be affected by dust once the air becomes polluted.

Much dust was found to be entering the mine through the main adit. Counts of 1000+, 960, 370, 250, 150 p.p.c.c. being recorded at various stages of our inspection. The two highest counts were recorded whilst the mine transfer bin was empty. The main adit was found to be very dry and much dust would be caused by men walking and loosing, etc., moving up and down it. It appears as though some method of keeping the adit damp, particularly the floor, would be desirable. If the walls and back were also kept wet, then much of the dust panned down the main adit would probably settle on the walls, back and floor. The only real solution is to upcast the main adit, but at present this idea does not seem feasible.

The supply of secondary ventilating equipment has improved, but the underground employees with few exceptions not use the equipment unless forced to do so. Unfortunately the supervisors are neglecting their obligations by not forcing

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the men to use the appliances, and until the supervision improves in this regard, little improvement can be expected.

The quantity of air passing through the mine was measured at 93,000 cums. Once the fan on No. 5 level begins operating this quantity should increase slightly. Much work has been done since my last visit in an effort to direct the air into working places and it was pleasing to note the negligible amount going to waste.

Until the present stope drive program has been completed and so provide through airways for all stopes, a true indication of conditions cannot be formed, but an improvement should be noticeable.

Conditions in the mill were consistent with previous inspections. Dust counts are still high particularly the primary crushing section, where work was in progress in an effort to prevent most of the dust from entering the atmosphere inside the building.

Average dust counts recorded in the plant are as follows:

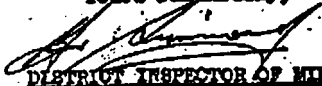
June 1960	330 p.p.c.c.
September 1960	420 p.p.c.c.
November 1960	460 p.p.c.c.
August 1961	390 p.p.c.c.

During the process of counting the dust samples, particular attention was paid to the presence of asbestos fibre in each sample. Contrary to previous results, some fibre to a greater or lesser degree was visible in practically every underground sample.

It is realised that the average dust count results given are a crude way of expressing conditions. The main concern of course is the dust concentration at each man's working place and the average counts are only intended to give an overall picture and possibly, a trend.

The present ventilation officer appears to be doing an excellent job and must be congratulated on his positive approach to the problem. It is only hoped he can continue his good work in the future, because it is only through a man of his calibre and ideas, that the problem at your mine can finally be overcome. His co-operation, along with the Underground Management's has made our job much easier, and it is only hoped that it will continue.

Yours faithfully,


DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.
(Ventilation).