

550611.001

Marble Bar

11th. June 1955

The State Mining Engineer,
Mines Department,
PERTH.

re- Australian Blue Asbestos. - WITTENOOM.

On June 1st. I inspected the operations of the above Company at Wittenoom, and had occasion to draw the attention of the management to the very unsatisfactory working conditions in the milling section.

I pointed out ^{that} no effective modifications, aimed at the eradication of dust, had been achieved during the eleven months since my initial inspection.

As I had not been informed of the Company's future intentions as to a remedy of this situation I requested that I be supplied with a written statement of how and when some improvement could be expected. I stated that I wanted this information by the end of June otherwise I may be compelled to order the closure of the milling section. I also informed the management that should I adopt this line of action, the Company was entitled to appeal to the Senior Inspector of Mines, Kalgoorlie, against my decision.

I am advising you of this matter now as the repercussions could be quite serious, however the working conditions are disgraceful and I consider that I would be failing in my duty to have taken a more lenient attitude.

The underground conditions were as good as I have seen in any mine in the State and I commended the management on this point. However, I consider that the economic aspect of any mining venture must take into consideration the cost of safe and healthy working conditions, and I was well aware of the Company's operating losses when I called for a speedy decision on the matter.

District Inspector of Mines.....Cue.