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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINES DEPARTMENT KALGOORLIE.

15th September, 1961.

Memorandum

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

Enclosed, please find a copy of the ventilation report covering the mines situated in the districts normally covered by you, also the tabulation of dust counts and temperatures for Wittenoom.

As you can see from the report and figures, conditions encountered were fairly dusty, also the poor supervision towards the use of secondary ventilating appliances. You must therefore understand why I am treating the Wittenoom business with such seriousness. I would therefore, be much obliged if both yourself and Workmen's Inspector Hunt would pay particular attention during your inspections to the correct use of the ventilating appliances, and the suppression of dust.


DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES.
(Ventilation).

KALGOORLIE.

The Senior Inspector of Mines,
Mines Department,
KALGOORLIE.

15th September, 1961.

VENTILATION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1961.

Herewith, my report on ventilation to the State Mining Engineer for the month of August, 1961.

Assistant Inspector Lorton accompanied me during a visit to Thaduna Copper Mine, Blue Spec Gold Mine, Copper Hills, Northampton and Wittenoom districts.

At the time of our visit no underground work was being done at Thaduna Copper Mine and all work at Blue Spec had ceased a few days before our arrival.

At Copper Hills it was found that an insufficient airflow was present on the 140-foot level and it was entered in the Record Book that "logs, etc., placed on way at the winding on 110 foot level to be opened up so as to allow a satisfactory airflow to pass through to 140 foot level."

In the Northampton district the Main shaft of the Ghurka Lead Mine is being sunk. This work at the time of our inspection was 22 feet below 250 foot level without any secondary ventilation. Written in the Record Book was "Secondary ventilation is required for the Main shaft sinking operations".

The following are the major points of interest in relation to our inspection of the Colonial Mine at Wittenoom. The long break of 2 1/2 hours between day and afternoon shifts inaugurated during September 1960 has been reduced to 1 hour. From the recorded dust counts and temperatures, it can be readily seen that this step was rather premature. The following was written in the Record Book and sums up the position generally:

"Although the approach towards the installation and supply of secondary ventilating equipment appears to have improved, conditions generally throughout the mine are still well below the required standard. Of all the places requiring secondary ventilation only a few had the equipment correctly installed as required by Regulation 152 of the Mines Regulation Act.

The mine generally is very dusty as is shown by the recorded dust counts and your attention is drawn to Regulation 150 of the Mines Regulation Act.

Through airflows in many parts of the workings continue to be non-existent, particularly some areas off the No. 4 and 5 levels.

I must emphasise that although it is the duty of all underground employees to ensure their working place is adequately ventilated before commencing work, it is the Supervisor's responsibility to make sure that the ventilating equipment is correctly installed and being properly used.

2. Much dust was found to be entering the main adit through the Mine Transfer Bin when empty. This dust must be stopped from entering the mine.

Conditions in the mill continue at a satisfactory level except for the primary crushing section where much dust is being liberated, however, work is in progress in an effort to reduce this dust hazard."

A more comprehensive report on this visit is being compiled and will be submitted in the near future.

(Sgd) H. R. SIMMONS.
DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES,
(Ventilation).