

State Mining Engineer,
 Mines Department,
 Perth

Kalgoorlie 19th August 19

PLAINTIFF'S
 EXHIBIT

Ventilation - Australian Blue Asbestos Mine - Wittenoom.

I visited the asbestos mine operated by the Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd at Wittenoom from July 28th to August 1st and inspected the underground working places and treatment plant. I also made an air survey of underground working.

The volume of air flowing through the mine was measured using the same anemometer, and resulted.

Intake

New Portal	11,000 c.f.m.
Upper Seam	9,200 c.f.m.
Lower Seam	12,590 c.f.m.
Total	32,790 c.f.m.

Discharge

Main entry (Upper Seam) 40,590 c.f.m. (measured past fan). The fan in use is still the Richardson 60" axial flow fan powered by a 25 H.P. electric motor.

The quantity of air circulating through the mine is satisfactory for the number of working places. The intake through the New Portal ventilates the new stopes and drive in this new section of the mine, and the intake at the Upper Seam ventilates those stopes in the old section of the mine which are still working. The air through the seam is split and ventilates the stopes still operating in the seam. This air then separates through jump-ways to the Upper Seam and joins the return air, through the old stopes and workings, to the exhaust fan.

Underground

Conditions underground generally were satisfactory. I deplore the lack of the use of sprayers on broken dirt underground. As no record but not to the extent sufficient to minimize the dust.

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Lagoon. Especially where sweeping was in operation the dust counts were high. The installation of a fibre slaying pole in the mill is an urgent necessity in order to dry the fibre product, and then the use of water underground can be rigidly enforced. The attached sheets show temperatures and dust counts recorded underground.

In some stopes the washing ~~the~~ places were above more than 10 feet off an airway and the ventilation was not satisfactory. I requested that secondary ventilating appliances be used in such stopes.

Treatment Plant

Extensive additions and alterations are being made to this plant. Included in the additions is the installation of a cyclone dust collector and three field dust collectors. These to connect the five small cyclones which exhaust through the roof of the building. This should prevent much of the dust which is at present exhausted to atmosphere and drifts down back into the mill. (This installation should now be in operation.)

Around the mill housing (and wood shed) walls have been erected. These enclose certain sections of the plant and act as ducts to the 48" diameter Richardson Propeller fans installed in the roof. These fans also need exhaust ducts to carry the dust into the air and away from the vicinity of the mill.

The mill has been enclosed on two sides and according to reports this has had a good effect on the amount of dust in the air. I consider the worst feature of the mill is the cloud of dust which arises from the mill and then either drifts down to the ground or blows down the gorge. It seems to have a dam effect. By requesting that extensions be added to the ducts it is hoped that the dust will be taken away from vicinity of the mill.

The attached sheets show the dust counts recorded in the mill. These counts are high but possibly the improved collection set-up will improve conditions in the

General

I was advised by the management of the proposed building alterations. Among the alterations is the conversion of the present office building, situated near the New Portal entrance into the underground changeroom. Provision is being made for the administration of Aluminium Therapy and the management proposes making this treatment available when the changeroom is completed.

J. M. F.
District Inspector of Mines

Tabulation of Dust Counts

Date	Shift	Place	Count	TEMPERATURE		
				Dry	Wet	
7-1-1993	Australian Blue Asbestos Mill with steam	1406 stage Upper beam		71	79	Regulating aeroper
		1406 stage "	340	74	66	Boring and boring. Vent. fair
		1404 stage "	230	74	69	Boring. Dirt slightly wet.
		2000 crosscut	70	82	77	Preparing to bore. Boring off level
		1150 drive	300	83	82	Boring. (Inter.) Vent. fair
		1450 stage	480	78	71	Boring. Dust raised when fan reduced one. Fan not run on all stage.
		1409 stage	1000 2	99	74	Reaper driven position. Just off airway. Dirt dry. Scavenging.
		1404 stage		76	71	Bored out. Vent. satisfactory
		1407 stage	300	75	68	Boring. Vent. satisfactory
		1403 stage	1000 2	76	71	Boring. More than 10 feet off airway. Blower required. Collaring hole dry.
7-1-1993	Treatment Plant gates empty bay	weather conditions	310			planning mill office
			60			primary plating
			170			Castings hole operators platform.
			470			plating too crude there off No. 7 conveyor
			1000 2			secondary plating
			960			on floor - near square structure
			1000 2			on floor - vicinity No. 2 mill
			150			Violently above elevating structure
			1000 2			Violently mill mill - near No. 2
			300			Reaping (low side)
			170			Reaper, near square structure

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