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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS PTY. LIMITED

99 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE
PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PRIVATE - P.200.

The Managing Director,
Australian Blue Asbestos Pty. Ltd.,
SYDNEY.

8th December, 1961.

Dear Sir,

DUST COLLECTION: The dust problem at Wittenoom was the subject of a discussion this morning between Mr. Brisbane, Mr. Boyland, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Dunstan and Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Boyland expressed his appreciation of the work done in the mine but was very critical of the mill, claiming that the Rotoclone installation was in his opinion inadequate and overloaded and that conditions, generally, throughout the plant were excessively dusty. Spillage from the conveyor belts and the absence of door closures, together with the lack of a regular maintenance schedule, appeared to be the main points of contention within the plant.

To attempt to achieve an immediate improvement in conditions a restriction of throughput has been set down by the local Mines Inspector, setting the rate at 28,000 short tons per four weekly period. This is understood to refer to total mill feed rather than just the tonnage entering the treatment section and could restrict our fibre production to something in the order of 1,660 tons per four weeks. The duration of the restriction is for a period of five weeks and any change will be subject to review at the end of that period or by appeal under Section 22 of the Mines Regulations Act.

To assist in rehabilitating the mill as quickly as possible, it is proposed to send Mr. Dunstan of S.W. Hart & Co. to Wittenoom on Sunday, 10th December to ensure that the rotoclones are operating to their maximum capacity and efficiency and to re-balance the dust circuits within the mill. Mr. Dunstan will look at pressurising the mill during his stay.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
WV-04207

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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Managing Director,
SYDNEY.

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Regarding conditions generally within the mill, we feel that a lot can be done to reduce the dust hazard by the mill staff systematically covering each point in the plant. Such items as spillage, open doorways, worn duct and blocked duct work all come within the scope of the staff's duties and constitute the major basis of complaint by the Inspectors.

We are enclosing, for your information, a copy of the letter from the Inspector of Mines, advising the restriction on throughput and a further copy of the Inspector's report in the inspection book.

Yours faithfully,

General Superintendent.