CSR - 76

(57)

District Inspector Feichney, KALGOORLIE. 12th December, 1

KALGOORLIE.

Ventilation - Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd. - Wittenoom.

A visit to the mine operated by the above company was made on the 21st and 26th of November last. Underground workings at the Colonial Mine, the treatment plant at the Colonial Mine and the treatment plant in Wittenoom Gorge were inspected. The Colonial treatment plant is at present being extended for increase production.

A survey of the airflows along the major levels was made using a velometer. This survey consisted of airflow measurements taken at the major openings to the gorge and in the turnouts from the main adit to the main levels. Owing to the limited time available no measurement was made of the output of the main exhaust fa

The intake as measured totalled 82,700 cfm. made up of:-

Main Adit 29,400cfm.
No.2 level 1,500cfm. (leakage when door is closed)
No.3 level 30,300cfm.
No.4 level 21,500cfm.

The airflows on the turnouts from the main adit to the major levels were as follows:-

No.1 Turnout 8000cfm.
No.2 Turnout 4500cfm.
No.3 Turnout 4200cfm.
No.4 Turnout 9000cfm.

Some air flows up the ore passes from the main adit when they are empty.

The dust counts recorded in the underground workings were in general, satisfactorily low. The few higher dust counts recorded were probably due to sorspers operating near working faces.

Conditions in the treatment plant at the Colonial Mine were found to be satisfactory, notwithstanding the adverse effect of outside air currents due to the removal of the Northern wall of the plant to make way for extensions. In positions where the concentration of dust was likely to be higher the operators were dust masks.

The only part of the Colonial Mill which was not working satisfactorily was the vertical discharge stack from the Rotoclone. A considerable amount of dust was being ejected from this stack which appeared to be either deposited on the roof of the mill building or picked up by air currents in the gorge which could move the dust into the cliff openings of the mine and thus contaminate the workings. To eliminate this dust nuisance the stack will be extended in height. If this does not have the desired effect, a secondary dust collector will be installed to remove the dust from the air before it is discharged to atmosphere.

In the Wittenoom mill, conditions appeared dusty, but no high counts were recorded. It is possible that the intake jet of the Konimeter may have become choked by fibre. This raises the question of suitability of Watson-Victor Konimeters to sampling airborne dust containing fibrous material.

E. F. Hunter

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MINES

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