

FILE NAME: Powhatan (PHN)

DATE: 1948

DOC#: PHN007

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Govt Inspection Reports

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

RECORD OF PLANT INVESTIGATION OR SERVICE

Plant Powhatan Mining Co., Inc. Address 6721 Windsor Mill Road, Balt. Co. Industry Asbestos

No. of Employees: Male 7 Female 0 Total 7 No. involved 7

Type of Service ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICAL OTHER

Reason: Self-Initiated
O.D. Report
Complaint
Request
Source
Management
Physician
Labor
Neighbors

Survey _____
Reinspection _____
Study _____
Consultation _____
Special Activity _____
Complaint Investigation _____
Follow Up On Compliance with Recommendations ☒

Exposure, Condition or Service	Number of Workers	Corrections or Improvements		
		Requested	Completed	Requested
Accident	5	Belt to be guarded		
Bldg. Defects	7	To be repaired		
Dermatitis	2	Gloves to be provided when working acid treated asbestos		
Asbestos dust	7	Ventilation to be provided crawler, elevator, screens, bag filling		

Samples Collected for Lab. Constituent Determinations Field Determinations Atmospheric Contaminants Physical Conditions Number and Kind of O.D. Cases	Instruments Used	Places	Tests

Remarks: Housekeeping and conditions poor. Ventilation spoken about by Mr. Mett intended to improve production not guard workers health. Conference E Kelly of Hales suggested.

Date Jan. 22, 1948 Person Interviewed F. Mett, owner. J. P. Boetig
SIGNATURE

January 23, 1948

To: Dr. Wm. F. Reindollar, Acting Chief
From: Mr. Felix H. Pretsch, Industrial Hygiene Engineer
Subject: Follow-up Visit to Powhatan Mining Co.

A follow-up visit on January 22, 1948 to this plant with Dr. Reindollar disclosed that very little progress has been made in controlling the dust hazard by ventilation. Conditions in this plant are the same as in 1942 - 1946.

An interview with Mr. F. A. Mett, proprietor, brought out the following:

1. Mr. Kelly of the Kelco Corporation, Baltimore, is said to be designing an exhaust system to care for the crusher, screens, elevators, and separator for use in the large building where commercial grades of asbestos are processed. This is on a cost plus basis and not on bids.
2. Two new pieces of equipment are on the premises. One is a cyclone separator which will be substituted for the screening operation and tied into the exhaust system. The other is a centrifugal blower with a 12" inlet duct - no name plate - no motor, about which Kelco has to design the ventilating system.
3. No plans are underway at present to control the dust in the smaller house used for acid washing, drying, and packing of technical grades of asbestos for chemical laboratories.
4. Mr. Mett believes it will be early spring before this system is completed. He gave us permission to call Mr. Kelly of Kelco and ask about the blueprints.

Plant Inspection Disclosed -

1. The dust hazard still exists at the crusher, screens, and filling operation.
2. Unguarded belts.

3. Defective floors, broken windows, and dirty walls.
4. Stairs without rails.
5. Respirators, although provided, are not used.
6. An extremely dusty operation which occurs about 6 hours a week in the acid wash building in relation to separating the various grades of asbestos fibre is completely uncontrolled.
7. No toilet or drinking facilities are within the building.

Number 1 is in the process of being corrected, although in my opinion this is being done from the viewpoint of production and not from that of occupational health. In fact, this proposed system may not control the hazard from an industrial health standpoint.

It is recommended that items 2 to 7 be corrected within a reasonable time, which should be about three months, unless this Company can show reasons to the contrary.

Follow-up Visit made by -

Felix H. Pretsch

Felix H. Pretsch
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

January 26, 1948

Mr. F. A. Mett, Manager
Powhatan Mining Corporation
Woodlawn, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mett:

Enclosed is our report of the industrial health follow-up visit made to Powhatan Mining Corporation. If there are any questions concerning it, please let us know.

Return visits will be made from time to time. If, at any time, we can be of service in regard to health hazards and problems in your plant, do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you for the courtesies shown us during our visit.

Very truly yours,

William F. Reindollar, So.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Industrial Health

WFR/A

January 26, 1948

To: Powhatan Mining Company
Woodlawn, Maryland

From: Maryland State Department of Health
Division of Industrial Health

Subject: Follow-up Visit

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4. Stairs without rails.
5. Respirators, although provided, are not used.
6. An extremely dusty operation which occurs about 6 hours a week in the acid wash building in relation to separating the various grades of asbestos fibre is completely uncontrolled.

Condition number one is in the process of being corrected, although it is questionable whether the exhaust system contemplated will give satisfactory dust control from an industrial health standpoint.

It is recommended that items 2 to 6 be corrected within a reasonable time, which should be about three months, unless this Company can show reasons to the contrary.

Felix H. Pretsch
Industrial Hygiene Engineer