

State Mining Engineer,
Mines Department,
Perth

Kalgoorlie 19th August 19

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 surface plant. I also made an air survey of underground workings. The volume of air flowing through the mine was measured using the wind anemometer and anemometer.

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 intake (Upper Seam) 40,590 c.f.m. (measured past fan). The fan is made up of the Richardson 60" dia. fan powered by a 75 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 drifts 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-ups 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 displaced the back of the new stopes on broken dirt underground. It was found that the air is not sufficient to ventilate the new

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Hazard. Especially where sweeping was in operation the dust counts were high. The installation of a filter, drying plate in this unit is an urgent necessity in order to dry the filter product, and then the evaporative underground can be rigidly enforced. The attached sheets show temperatures and dust counts recorded underground.

In some stagers the weathering ~~the~~^{at} ~~the~~^{these} places were above more than 10 feet off an airway and the ventilation was unsatisfactory. I suggested that auxiliary ventilating appliances be used in such stages.

Leontodon 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 fitted dust collectors. There is removal of five small explosions 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 operating)

Inside the mill housing (and several beds) walls have been erected. These enclose certain sections of the plant and set as ducts to the 48" diameter Richardson Papillion fans installed in the roof. These fans also used exhaust ducts to carry the dust into the air and away from the vicinity of the mi-

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 rises from the mill and then either drifts down to the ground or blows down the gorge. It seems to have a slow effect. By suggesting that restrictions be adopted to the dust it is hoped that the dust will be taken away from vicinity of the mill.

The attached sheets show the dust count records - all. 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 in the conversion of the present office building, situated near the New Portak entrance into the underground changeroom Provision is being made for the administration of Aluminium Therapy and the management propose 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	
7-7-1953	Australian Mine Asbestos Ltd. Wickham	1200 Stope Upper Deck	180	71	59	Regulating escapement
		1600 Stope " "	180	74	66	Boring and boring, Vent. felt
		1600 Stope " "	230	74	69	Boring - dirt slightly wet.
		2000 Crosscut	90	72	79	Preparing to bore. Boring cut 10' in 1
		1850 Drive	300	69	82	Boring. (Vent.) Vent. felt
		1850 Stope	480	70	71	Boring. Vent. felt. Vent. felt
		1800 Stope	1000	79	74	one bucket full of ore all time.
		1400 Stope	1000	79	74	drummen driven position. dust cut
		1200 Stope	1000	79	74	always. dust dry. scraping.
		1200 Stope	1000	79	74	hard cut. Vent. satisfactory
7-11-53	Treatment Plant	1200 Stope	1000	76	71	Boring. Vent. satisfactory
		1200 Stope	1000	76	71	Boring. Vent. felt. Vent. felt
		1200 Stope	1000	76	71	always. Vent. felt. Vent. felt
		1200 Stope	1000	76	71	always. Vent. felt. Vent. felt
		1200 Stope	1000	76	71	always. Vent. felt. Vent. felt
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