

FILE NAME: Powhatan (PHN)

DATE: 1960

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Govt Inspection Reports

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND AIR POLLUTION,
INVESTIGATION OR SERVICE

Date 1/5/60 By R.R.S. & W.F.B.

Plant Parkston Mining Co. Industry Asbestos Processing
Address W-440-1-1 County Waltham
Number of Employees: Male 2 Female 2 Total 10

Purpose	Number Involved	Persons Interviewed	Reason
Survey		<u>Dennis Smith - foreman</u>	Self initiated
☒ Reinspection		<u>Mrs. Frances Mott - office</u>	O.D. Report ☒
Study			Complaint-Request
Follow-up			Management
☒ Consultation		Occupational Disease	Labor
Special Activity		<u>Asbestos</u>	Neighbors
Project Activity			Health Office
			Other

Recommendations Regarding Environmental Problems

Problems	Number Affected	Requested Improvement	Date
<u>New</u>			<u>Completed</u>
<u>Asbestos</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Require buggy operator to wear B & M approved respirator until this operator is better controlled.</u>	
<u>Past - Completed</u>			<u>Made</u>
<u>Uncompleted</u>			

Field Studies: _____ No. Involved _____
Atmospheric Contaminants: _____
Physical Conditions: _____
Samples submitted for analysis: _____
File Memo ☒ ; Plant Record ☒ ; Letter W rec; Report _____ ; Next Visit 3/60 Star
Reviewed R

FILE MEMORANDUM:

The dual purpose of this visit was to investigate a case of asbestosis and to reinspect the plant. Mr. Fred Mett, unfortunately, was away at the time of the visit; information was obtained from Mr. Dennis Smith, Foreman, and Miss Frances Mett, who is employed in the office.

The asbestos victim was Mr. Charles H. Liptrap, 6014 Baltimore Avenue, Baltimore 7. He worked for the company from 1947 to January 1958, was off for about two months, returned to work on March 24, and remained at work until October of that year. According to a report from the Medical Board, he was adjudged permanently and totally disabled and was awarded the full amount (\$20,000) in a case that was uncontroverted. X-ray plates indicated a diffused fibrosis, particularly in the lower two-thirds of the lungs. The individual was 56 years old at the time of the award, was suffering from marked dyspnea and fatigue and was unable to carry out his routine work. He was furnished with a respirator, but owing to the discomfort and irritation caused by it, he seldom wore it. The bagger, in the past, was one of the dustiest areas in the plant.

Conditions in the plant at the time of the visit was found to be much improved; a new rod mill has been installed, the exhaust ventilation system expanded, and visible dust appeared to be less than at any previous visit. It is still deemed necessary, however, for a man working at the bagger to wear a respirator; Bureau of Mines approved, for industrial dust, and this will be recommended.

Sanitary facilities for the male workers remain in the same condition as was described in our September letter to Mr. Mett; however, Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Mett has already ordered lumber for new privies and that the material might even arrive today. He was advised that rather than duplicating the worn out privy, now in existence, it would be far better to install one with a septic tank and tile field. There appears to be sufficient area to do this if the privy is moved from its present location to the land owned by Mr. Mett on the east side of the plant. It was strongly urged also that a broken-down shower in the boiler room be renovated and put into service, furnishing it, of course, with both hot and cold water. Mr. Smith said he would welcome these improvements, but that only Mr. Mett could authorize them. A letter urging that this be done will be sent to Mr. Smith. *WFR*

WFR:RF - 1/13/60

January 13, 1960

Mr. Fred A. Mett
Powhatan Mining Company
Woodlawn
Baltimore 7, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mett:

On January 5, 1960, Dr. R. R. Sayers, our medical Consultant for Occupational Diseases, and I visited your plant for the dual purpose of investigating a case of asbestosis and reinspecting the plant facilities. I regret very much that, owing to your being away, we could not discuss some of the plant problems with you.

Since the installation of the new equipment and the extension of the exhaust ventilation control system, there appears to be much less dust in the working areas of the plant. The man at the bagger, however, still has too great a dust exposure and it is urgently recommended that he be required to wear a Bureau of Mines approved dust respirator while at this station. We will probably have a dust study made of this area in the reasonably near future and will discuss with you possible means for its more efficient control.

Sanitary facilities, as described in our last letter to you (September 5, 1958), are not only filthy but most unsatisfactory. Mr. Smith informed us that you are planning to replace this with another pit privy. Such a unit will soon become as filthy and unsatisfactory as the present one, and if a residential area develops nearby be sure to become a source of odor complaint. It would be far better to install a septic tank with tile field and this can readily be done on land that you already own adjacent to the plant. Toilet paper and not torn up newspapers must be provided.

The State Sanitary Code for Industrial Establishments, a copy of which is enclosed for your information, requires that at least one washbasin with adequate water supply shall be provided with soap and individual towels and a proper receptacle for disposing of the latter used items.

Since your workers are exposed to potentially irritating material, shower facilities with hot and cold water from a mixing faucet are to be provided. This can be done with a minimum of expense inasmuch as a shower facility already exists in the boiler room and needs only to be renovated and put into service.

