

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo to Mines Inspectors with Letters
from the Senior Inspector of Mines RE Inspection Results -
Wittenoom - Dust Levels Increased

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AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS PTY. LIMITED

MEMORANDUM TO THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
PERTH.

RECEIVED
27 JUL 1962
PERTH, W.A.

PRIVATE 16A.
25th July, 1962.

MINES INSPECTORS. We are enclosing copies of letters received from the Senior Inspector of Mines in Kalgoorlie.

One refers to the use of fast plastic igniter cord, and you will note that he has forbidden us to use it. This letter arrived in the same mail as the copies of your correspondence with the State Mining Engineer.

The second letter refers to his recent inspections. Mr. Boyland is again being particularly harsh and unrealistic in some of his demands. For instance, his request that sprays be installed on the tailings dump is utterly ridiculous and we should appeal to the Minister on this point. He also wants all the areas around the mill to be sealed to prevent dust rising. We have been oiling these areas frequently. Mr. Boyland's complaint that the tailings bin was emitting dust and there were not any water sprays in use was correct, but the reason for the sprays not operating was explained, but evidently no explanations are in order or acceptable. We have taken steps to seal both bins and have asked Forwood Down for quotations for conical tops to fit these bins, and this will seal them. It was explained to him that construction was not complete on either bin.

We are rather tired of his constant threat to initiate prosecutions. This is being done (according to him) to force the Company into carrying out every instruction. We would suggest that this constant threat be investigated.

Mr. Boyland's claim that no attempt has been made to collect dust from the bagging machine is entirely wrong. There are hoods and ducts all around the machine and we are now in process of closing the machine in a room.

We do not stop in our efforts to control and collect dust in the mill and we have men constantly on ventilation underground. It is not easy to comply with every request the Inspectors make, but we at least do our best to carry out their wishes.

D. Allan
MANAGER.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
104840

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Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
PITTSBURGH.

25th July, 1962.

Dear Sir,

Following a recent inspection & survey of your mine, I wish to advise you as follows:

Visually, conditions throughout the mine generally have deteriorated considerably since my last visit. The recorded dust counts are also high, in fact the average count for the day shift is the highest ever. Conditions generally from the dust angle could be classed as the worst ever.

The following figures show the average dust counts recorded over the past two years & illustrate the trend of conditions.

Day Shift for June	1960	230 p.p.c.c.	
" " " November	"	180	(2) hour break
" " " August	1961	420	"
" " " March	1962	370	"
" " " June	"	400	"
A/noon " " November	1960	110	(2) hour break
" " " August	1961	630	"
" " " June	1962	590	"

The main edit, once again, is causing much trouble in regard to the dust hazard. Dust counts taken at various times during our inspection resulted in an average count of 850 p.p.c.c. The cause of this would be attributable to the negative airflow through the edit below No. 3 level. 10,000 cunins were found to be entering the main edit at the surface, but all had leaked into the lower seams circuit on No. 1, 2 & 3 levels. The area between No. 3 & 5 levels was found to be 'dred'. A total of 6,000 cunins were leaking down through No. 5 & 6 levels service rises into the main edit & thence passing to No. 7 level under the influence of a 24" h.f., which exhausts this air along No. 7 level into the stope areas.

The brattice isolating upper & lower seams, particularly the one across the stope above 4 level, are poorly erected thus allowing a large volume of air to leak through. Our measurements indicate approx. 30,000 cunins to be leaking from the upper seams circuit into lower seams circuit.

The underground employees & supervisors appear to have at last been educated in the correct use of the ventilating appliances, also the observance of the Mines Regulations, etc.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINES DEPARTMENT. KALGOORLIE.

C O P Y

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.,
WITTEBOOM.

20th July, 1962.

Dear Sir,

I have now completed a detailed study of reports made by Departmental Ventilation Inspectors and discussed your Mine Workings with all Inspectors of Mines concerned.

Tests made by our Ventilation Inspectors on your Mine Air during the period 15th June, 1962 to 21st June, 1962 show that the dust content of the mine air has generally increased.

The Inspectors report that the general observance of the Mines Regulation Act was at the highest level yet seen in your mine and therefore the increased dust content of the air can only be due to Mining methods employed.

These methods require extraction by Underhand stoping or that the stopes face advances away from the surface outcrop.

Our Inspections carried out over a long period have shown that these stopes cannot be ventilated adequately.

I must refer you to Regulations 145, 147, 148 and 149 of the Mines Regulation Act No. 54 of 1946-1961. These regulations read collectively require that fresh air be taken directly to your innermost or deepest levels, that sufficient of this fresh air be split and taken to each working level from where it will be controlled to ventilate the workings off such level and then return to the surface by direct course; that there will be no re-circulation of air.

Your present mining methods do not allow these requirements to be fulfilled.

Secondary ventilation introduced into your stopes has not proved adequate.

I must therefore notify you by Virtue of Section 22 of the Mines Regulation Act 1946-1961 that your present stoping methods are dangerous or defective so as in my opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of persons employed therein. The nature of such danger or defect is the high dust content in the air breathed by employees.

I must therefore request that no new stopes be commenced or operated by underhand stoping methods, or that the faces of any new stopes be worked advancing away from the main bench face.

All new stopes must be worked from the respective levels furthestest from the surface outcrop or bench face and advanced towards the upper level or bench face by such methods as to allow for a free flow of fresh air from the deepest part of the mine to the surface exhaust.

The high general dust content of the mine air especially at places such as ore transfer points and ore bins indicates that water sprays are not being operated correctly.

The work of isolating the ventilation of the upper and lower seam workings is not yet completed, and much recirculation is taking place.

This work was commenced many months ago and should have been completed now - Inspectors of Mines will in future stop work in any place in which inadequate ventilation or air recirculation is found.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

104810

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On 6th November, 1961, I wrote to you regarding dust generally and specifically mentioned dust arising from the tailings at the tailings bin, tailings dump and areas built up with mill tailings.

During my recent visit I noticed dust arising from all three points. If this dust is not eliminated, I will have no alternative other than to close these sections and initiate prosecutions.

Please ensure that water sprays are correctly installed and constantly used on all surface bins to prevent dust escaping into the atmosphere.

No attempt had been made to isolate dust arising from your new bagging section. This work must be undertaken forthwith.

Notwithstanding that you have specialists testing a new dust extraction process, it must be clearly understood that whilst this test is being made, it is necessary to prevent or control dust at all points not under the control of your present dust extraction units.

In future if an Inspector of Mines finds dust arising, he will stop the unit concerned.

Yours faithfully,

J. BOYLAND
SENIOR INSPECTOR OF
MINES.

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