

FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1955 & 1956

DOC#: CSR145

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Govt Inspection Results - Australian Blue Asbestos - Wittenoom & Letter from A.B.A. RE Changes Made Based on Previous Inspection Recs

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COPY FROM MINES FILE NO. 506/56.

1334

EXTRACT

MINES DEPARTMENT,  
KALGOORLIE,  
28th June,

State Mining Engineer,  
Mines Department,  
PERTH.

Australian Blue Asbestos - Wittenoom

31/5/56 & 1/6/56

There is a very noticeable air of optimism in this district and it would appear that A.B.A. is now on the threshold of very prosperous times.

It was indeed a pleasure to inspect the underground workings of this mine where all departments are modernised and conditions extremely satisfactory. The underground officials are worthy of compliment for their good work and prevailing conditions.

This good work however, is offset by the haphazard experimental work and general dusty conditions in the mill. It is evident that several attempts have been made to alter the flow sheet, with I trust, a view to eliminating dust; but up to date results have been far from satisfactory. Experiments are continuing with wet processing.

At the time of my inspections the mill was crushing at the rate of 8,500 tons per month and this would produce from 600 to 620 tons of fibre.

The population of the district was increasing and it is intended to enlarge the output, the ultimate crushing figure being 30,000 tons per month, but it will probably be three or four years before this target is reached.

Underground operations are very simple. Main adits are placed in the footwall, under the orebody. Stopes extend 400 feet laterally from the draw points; 8% of the ore body being left as pillars. Further walls and pillars protecting draw points and development adits increase the ore left to 10%.

Mining consists of merely driving and stripping. Broken ore is scraped to draw points from where the ore is transported by electric loco's pulling Granby trucks to intermediate bins. These bins feed on to a conveyor belt in the main adit and the ore is fed to the Main Underground bin.

At present two shifts are employed underground and three shifts in the mill. Most mining operations are in Western Gorge.

(SOD.) J. BOYLAND  
SENIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES.



PLAINTIFF'S  
EXHIBIT

10,225



AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

WITTENOOM GORGE  
WESTERN AUSTRAL

21st June, 1955.

The District Inspector of Mines,  
C U E ... W.A.

Dear Sir,

In conformity with your request in our Mine Inspection Record Book, we wish to advise that the following work has been carried out on the dust problem in the Mill.

- a). The suction ducts from the Kubit mills have been redesigned and connected to independent cyclones.
- b). The suction pipes from the Traylor and Symons Crushers are now connected into No.5 Field collector, giving greatly improved results.
- c). No.1 Field collector has been connected to No.1 Rolls discharge, No.2 Rolls feed and discharge, and No.2 Trommel feed and discharge.
- d). Dust hoods have been fitted over the feed entrance to the main bagging trommel.
- e). The dust fans over No.3 and No.4 Trommels have been speeded up to maximum limit.
- f). A regular check on the field collectors has been instituted, with a regular sludge pumping programme.
- g). Duct work is being inspected daily for obstructions.

The above changes have greatly improved conditions within the Mill, and our engineering staff, in conjunction with the Mill Superintendent, are investigating all possible avenues of improvement. Should the tariff enquiry prove favourable, we should be in a position to proceed with a wet milling circuit, in which case the dust hazard should become a thing of the past.

Yours faithfully,  
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

PCT/SH

*Richard F. Scruggs*  
Acting Manager.

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