FILE NAME: Powhatan (PHN)

DATE: 1971

DOC#: PHN026

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Govt Inspection Reports

State of Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
2105 N CHARLES STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218 • Area Code 301 • 383-
Neil Solomon, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

April 21, 1971

TO: Ernest B. Robison Tom Ernst

FROM: Richard Johnson RJ

RE: Visit to Powhattan Mining Company

I contacted the Powhattan Mining Company at 6721 Windsor Mill Road on 4-14-71 p.m. requesting permission to visit their processing plant to acquaint myself with the methods used to process asbestos. I was informed that it was not the policy of the company to allow visitors. I called again on 4-15-71 and spoke with Miss Metz, president of the company, who explained my previous request was misunderstood. An appointment was made for 10:30 a.m. on 4-19-71. On Thursday I tried to contact Martin Rivers or Tom Ernst of Baltimore County for more information concerning Powhattan but was unable to reach them.

I visited the plant on 4-19-71 with Roland Schmidt. We were given a tour of the plant by Miss Metz and the plant foreman. Powhattan Mining is a small operation with about 10 employees. Miss Metz explained that the ore was mined in Georgia or Alabama and trucked to the plant. The ore is shovel-fed into a crusher. The ore is conveyed to other processing machines where it is further broken down to a dust like form and washed, screened and bagged in burlap sacks. These sacks were lined to prevent loss through the bag. No dust visible from outside. The building was fairly old; Miss Metz said her father started the operation in 1917. The interior of the building was coated with dust of various depths. In some spots the dust was about 6 inches deep. Dust was visible in the air throughout the plant. There were four dust collectors installed at this plant: One Kel-Co, two Dixie and one Wheeler Prichter. These were bag types and seemed inadequate at best. The employees carried out all operations in dust-laden air. Large doors and windows were open allowing dust to be blown by winds. This plant is located in a residential area. The employees and staff seemed unaware of any danger. I would consider the dust control system a failure and hope the situation could be rectified soon, based on the dangers outlined in the "Preliminary Air Pollution Survey of Asbestos".

RJ:bac

Keep us informed.

RECEIVED
MAY 12 '71
BALTIMORE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

May 7, 1971

TO FILE: Powhattan Mining Company

FROM : Chris Zerby

SUBJECT: Plant Inspection

A tour of the Powhattan Asbestos plant was made on the morning of May 7, 1971. Present were:

Powhattan	Baltimore County
Miss Francis Mett President	Bob Hedden
	DAQC
Roland Schisler Plant Foreman	Chris Zerby

The plant was not operating at full capacity as only one mill and bagging area were being used. The following sources of airborne asbestos were noted (refer to materials flow diagram):

1. Primary crusher - 3 to 4 inch anthopolite ore is loaded by front end loader to a bin then shoveled by hand to the primary crusher. Reduced material is carried by an open bucket conveyor to an enclosed elevator where it is then distributed to one of three secondaries.

   This source was not operating; however, the handling and crushing operations would probably generate enough particulate to carry out the large doorway. Two collection points are exhausted to a baghouse.

2. Secondary crushers - This area is hooded and exhausted to a baghouse collector. A small stationary screen separator and the loading hopper of the impact mill are not covered and a small amount of dust could be seen at these points.

3. Bagging area - Paper or paper lined burlap bags are gravity filled and stitched to seal. These bags are waterproof; however, due to a shortage of supply, a plastic weave bag is being used instead and this type is not waterproof.

   The finished product is very fine and powdery so it easily becomes airborne during the filling of the bags. The sewn seal is very poor and asbestos can easily escape from the bags during handling.

Conclusion:

This plant is a definite concern for industrial hygiene and possible health hazard for citizens in the local community. An unannounced inspection will be made soon to reevaluate the plant in actual operation and at full capacity.

Since asbestos can be a health hazard even though invisible, it is recommended that an asbestos monitoring network be established around the plant, to determine atmospheric concentrations.

CZ:dc

cc: Baltimore County Health Department
Mr. Beegan (Industrial Hygiene)

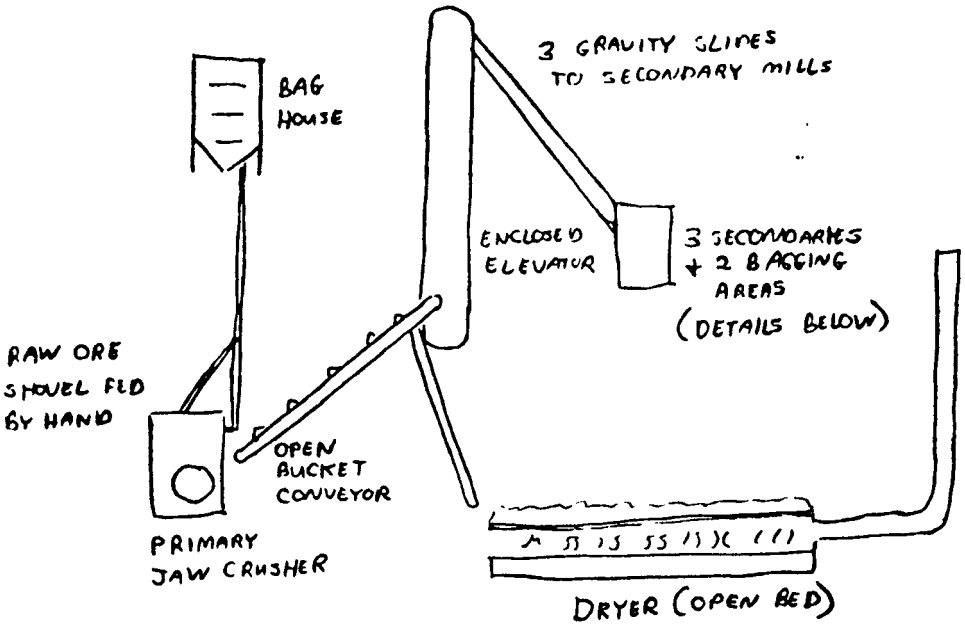
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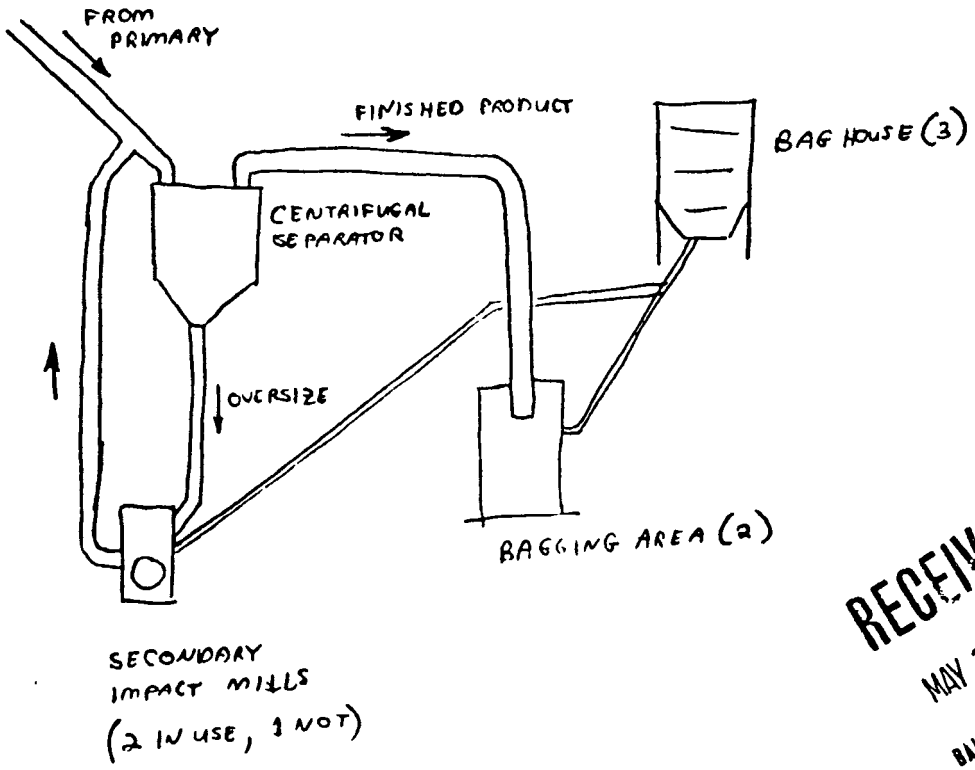
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

William J. Peeples, M.D., M P.H., Commissioner

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PROXIMITY OF POWHATAN MINING COMPANY

HOT LAVA AREA

Air Monitoring Section June 22, 1971

Technical Services Section

Asbestos Sampling Network
(Proximity of Powhatan Mining Company)

The Powhatan Mining Company, located at 6721 Windsor Mill Road processes 1252 tons of asbestos ore per year. The president of the company is Miss Frances E. Mett who lives at the same address in a house approximately 200 feet from the building housing the processing equipment. This is an old operation (started in 1917) and plant visits have indicated that the workers are forced to inhale asbestos fibers in their work area. This is evident by the fact that fibers can be seen suspended in the in-plant air. Although the processing system employs several fabric filters, the collection system is obviously inadequate since it allows fibers to become airborne. Further, as the building has several large open doors and open windows, the dust could be carried outside exposing the community to hazardous pollutants. The plant is located in a residential area. (Refer to attached map.)

Two houses are within 200 feet of the plant.
Ten houses are within 300 feet of the plant.
Twenty-nine houses are within 500 feet of the plant.
The Featherbed Lane Elementary School is approximately 1100 feet from the plant. (John C. Baummer, Box 631, New Cut Road, Kingsville, Maryland 21082 is the principal, Telephone 592-7798.)

Because of the known and suspected hazards of even short term exposures to small concentrations of asbestos fibers, immediate abatement action must be taken. As a basis to require the operation to be controlled--either voluntarily or through the courts--information is needed concerning the concentration of asbestos fibers in the ambient air surrounding the plant. Take whatever steps you feel necessary to obtain this information.

If further technical assistance from this section is required, personnel will be made available at your convenience. This project should be considered of the highest priority because of its public health significance.

REH

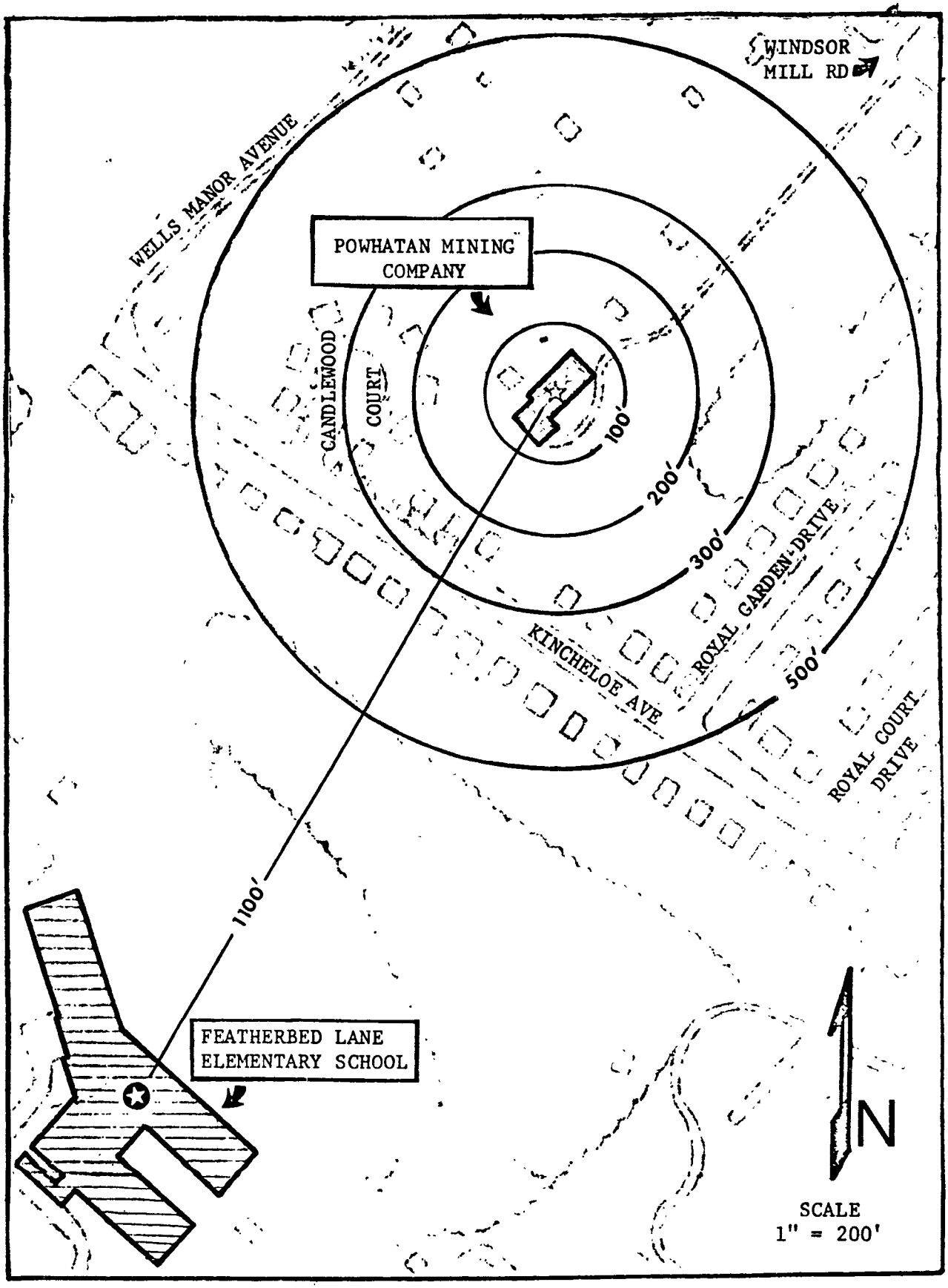
Robert E. Hedden, Chief
Technical Services Section
Division of Air Pollution and
Industrial Hygiene
Bureau of Environmental Health

REH:dh
Attachment

cc: George Ferreri, DAQC
James Beegan, DOH Industrial Hygiene

PROXIMITY OF POWHATAN MINING COMPANY

WOODLAWN AREA



TO: Powhatan Mining Company File

FROM: Chris Zerby
Division of Air Quality Control

SUBJECT: Plant Inspection

An unannounced plant inspection of the Powhatan Mining Company was made on the morning of August 31, 1971. Present were:

Baltimore County Health Dept.	Industrial Hygiene	Division of Air Quality Control
Larry Kircher	Jim Deegan	George P. Ferreri
Asit Hazra	Sunil Patel	Rick Johnson
		Chris Zerby

Miss Francis Hett, President, was contacted prior to entering the plant operations; no employee was available to conduct the tour. The following items were noted:

1. Primary Crusher - This unit was not operating; however, the materials handling at this point have the potential for being a source of fugitive dust. The stockpile and crusher are enclosed in a shed with a large open doorway.

2. Secondary crushers - Two of these units were in operation. A slight amount of emission was noted escaping near the top of the south corner of the building where an air separator was located. Dust laden gas escaped from a poorly sealed gas flow damper. Also noted was a deposit of dust on the roof near one of the exhaust ducts.

3. Tailings Stockpile - A three sided shed encloses the waste mineral, and contains some asbestos fibers, near the rear of the plant. This material could become airborne on windy days.

4. Acid Leaching Tanks - Hydrochloric acid in about ten open tanks (each about 15 gallon capacity) removes iron impurities from the asbestos fiber.

The plant appears to comply with the current air quality regulations with the exception of the minor emission on the roof. Some maintenance would be required to correct the minor sources of fugitive dust. However, the main concern is the in-plant effect of suspended particulates on the plant employees. It is recommended that air samples be taken inside the building and analyzed to determine compliance with the industrial hygiene regulations.

C. Zerby

cc: Baltimore County Health Department
Mr. James Deegan, Div. of Industrial Hygiene
Mr. Richard Johnson, Engineering Section, DAQC

Mine: 583 3147
3122

State of Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Neil Solomon, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
610 N. HOWARD STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 • Area Code 301 • 383-

October 27, 1971

MEMO TO: Mr. Bill Philips

FROM: Richard Johnson RJ

SUBJECT: Inplant Asbestos Samples in Powhatten Mining Company

The inplant asbestos samples taken at Powhatten Mining Company have been analyzed by the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. The analysis was done according to procedures established by the U.S. Public Health Service for phase contrast microscopy.

Sample number one (BR333) was taken in the immediate vicinity of the bagging operation. This sample showed a fiber count of 7,800 fibers per liter of air. Sample number two (22) was taken on the main floor near an operating dryer. The fiber count here was 5,500 fibers per liter of air.

Both samples were over the Threshold Limit Values of 5,000 fibers per liter of air established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. These samples show Powhatten Mining Company to be in violation of Regulation 43001.

It is my recommendation that Powhatten be advised of their status and that further tests be made to better define the extent of asbestos contamination at Powhatten Mining Company.

RJ/ms