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Your Ref:818/51
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LH/OS

17th September, 1951.

THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MINES.

I must thank you for your memorandum of the 31st instant in which you enclosed a copy of a report of the Assistant Ventilation Inspector concerning the Australian Blue Asbestos Mine at Wittenoom Gorge.

It would be appreciated if you could let me have a copy of the dust counts and the temperature readings mentioned in paragraph 1 of Inspector Faichney's report.

On reading this report it is noted that the amount of dust particles in the area is high and that the ventilation of this mine needs more supervision.

It is to be noted that the area in the vicinity of the treatment plant is still very dusty.

The interest of this Department is to be understood when it is realised that the hazard from asbestos is considerably greater than that from silica and that we have reason to believe that attention to this aspect of mining operations at Wittenoom has been inadequate in the past.

LINLEY BENZELL
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH