FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1961 Sept 10

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(176)

KALGOORLIE.

The Senior Inspector of Mines, 10th September, 1961.

Mines Department,

KALGOORLIE.

Ventilation - Australian Blue Asbestos Limited, Wittenoom.

Accompanied by Assistant Inspector Lorton, I carried out an inspection on both day and afternoon shifts of the underground workings, also a partial airflow survey of the Colonial Mine between the 14th and 19th August, 1961. An inspection of the treatment plant was also carried on.

UNDERGROUND.

Unfortunately from the ventilation point of view, permission was given some time ago for the 2½ hour break between day and afternoon shifts to be reduced to one hour. Conditions on afternoon shift are now definitely better than those encountered before the 2½ hour break was inaugerated, but the smell of fumes plus the obvious signs of smoke and dust are still present in most of the workings.

The only workings free from these agents are those off No. 6 level where the bulk of the intake air reaches these places in a relatively pure state. After this the air becomes very sluggish in the wide stope areas, and is also polluted by the firing from the lower levels therefore the air is unable to clear the middle and upper level workings before afternoon shift commences work.

The following figures should be of interest

Average Dust Count on	Day	shift for	June	1960	=	230	p.p.c.c.
"	"	"	November	1960	=	180	p.p.c.c.
"	"	"	August	1961	=	420	p.p.c.c.
"	"	Afternoon	November	1960	=	110	p.p.c.c.
"	"	"	August	1961	=	630	p.p.c.c.

During November 1960 the 2½ hour break between day and afternoon shifts was in force whilst during August 1961 the 1 hour break was in force. No figures are available for afternoon shift before the longer break started, therefore no comparitive figures are available.

From visual observations the mine air appeared much more dust laden during this inspection than any previous inspection. This point is also borne out by the recorded dust counts, also the average counts shown above. Possibly the main reason is that production during this inspection would be at it's highest level ever, also the number of men underground and the number of places being worked would also be a record. It appears that most of the dust originates from scraping operations, outside sources, and operations in the main adit. Once the air becomes polluted by dust from these sources then all places underground must become affected by virtue of the present mining methods.

.../2

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 104316

The approach towards the supply of secondary ventilating equipment appears to have improved from the Management's side, but unfortunately the underground employees with few exceptions will not use the equipment unless forced to do so. Much of this fault lies with the underground supervisors who seem loathe to force the men to use the appliances as required by Regulation 152 of the Mines Regulation Act. Of all the places visited only a few had the ventilation equipment correctly installed and in use. Before we left each place the person concerned was made to bring the ventilation up to standard and in some instances a warning given. It appears the only remedy is to take a stronger line of action against both employees and supervisors. If the supervisors were to continually force the men to do the right thing then much of the present trouble would be eased.

The miner's school has shown a definite improvement and at the time of our inspection could not be faulted. Two good experienced miners are in charge of this school at present, and providing it continues along similar lines then a better class of miner will be forthcoming.

Many of the workings are still in the form of pockets and so require secondary ventilation. In the not too distant future, however, all stopes should have stope drives broken through to a lower horizon. Many such stope drives are at present being worked, but owing to the development being so far behind it has been impossible to rectify this lag in the short time available, and keep production at the required target. Once the present stope drive programme has caught up with the present requirements then the programme for future operations will be put into force and an improvement in the stope conditions may be forthcoming, although under the present stoping system this appears rather doubtful.

The lower seam workings are progressing satisfactorily The airflow for these workings enters the lower seam at the Nos 2 and 3 levels, thence downcasts through the workings to No 4 level whence it enters the upper seam openings and then exhausts to the main fan. Once the stope drives programme has advanced sufficiently an effort is to be made to isolate the two seams and so have an independant airflow through each seam. If this can be achieved a definite improvement in conditions should be possible.

As can be seen from the recorded dust counts much dust was found to be entering the mine through the main adit intake. Counts of 1000+, 960, 570, 250, 150 p.p.c.c. being recorded at various stages of our inspection. It can be seen that the dust entering through this source is rather constant. The two high counts of 1000+ and 960 p.p.c.c. were registered whilst the Mine Transfer Bin was empty and according to the mine officials only occurs when the bin is empty and an easterly wind blowing. The Management stated their intention of building a brattice in No. 2 adit in an endeavour to stop this hazard. The easiest solution of course is to not empty the bin completely, but the Management claim that the standard of employeeiis too low for this idea to be a positive success.

At present a door is installed at the main adit entrance in an endeavour to prevent dust entering from outside sources. Most dust however is formed inside the adit, the only effect the door is having at present is to allow a greater concentration of dust for allonger period in the adit because of the slow flushing effect. From the airflow angle, however, the door is allowing more air to be drawn through the cliff openings thereby forcing the air to the bottom of the mine where it is required. It is [illegible]

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thought that at some future date an effort may be made to upcast the main adit.

Crib time firing has been abolished completely in all stopes. Conditions after crib are fairly consistent with morning conditions apart from the dust angle which is possibly worse by virtue of mining operations in a very slow moving airflow.

AIR MEASUREMENTS.

Ventilation of this mine is still carried on by a Richardson 60 A.F. Class A Axiel Flow Fan. Another fan similar to this is being installed at No. 5 level just south of the 54 surface rise. This fan should be operating early in September and will eventually allow a better distribution of air through the workings. Because of this, only a partial airflow survey was done this time. The quantities measured being the main intakes and exhaust.

The exhaust fan is at present drawing fresh air into the mine through four main intake areas. Viz. No. 4 level Cliff Opening, No 5 level Surface Rise, No 3 level Cliff Opening (Regulated) and Main Adit (Regulated). Doors are installed at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 level Cliff Openings with the No 3 level door being regulated to allow a sufficient amount of air to enter this level for the Lower Seam workings.

Brattice doors are now installed at Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 level turnouts, thereby preventing the short circuit of air which was previously taking place. Brattices have also been installed in the Service Rises on Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 levels. The only air now going to waste is the small amount leaking through the doors and brattices. The leakage in most cases is necessary in order to maintain some air movement on the levels past crib houses, etc.

The recorded volumes at the main points were as follows :-

Main Adit	Intake	6,000 cumins.
No 1 level Cliff Opening (Leakage)	"	1,700 "
No 2 " " " "	"	2,300 "
No 3 " " " Regulated	"	15,000 "
No 4 " " "	"	30,000 "
No 5 level Surface Rise	"	35,000 "
TOTAL		90,000 "
Main Exhaust Fan		93,000 "

The quantity of 93,000 cumins measured in the fan drift would be the more correct figure because of the fluctuating airflows entering the intakes thereby making a perfect check almost impossible. Of this total only about 4,000 cumins are going to waste. i.e. serving no useful purpose. All these 4,000 cumins are leakage beneath doors and brattices and would be virtually impossible to stop.

Of the 30,000 cumins that enters No 4 level Cliff Opening, 16,000 cumins passes into the No 4 level workings and 14,000 cumins passes down No 3 Adit where it is joined by 35,000 Cumins from No 5 level Surface Rise. The airflow generally appears to be fairly split and once the new fan at No 5 level begins operating then the lower levels should receive an ample supply of air. Unfortunately though, the stopes will still be the trouble spots because of their large open areas.

.../4

The No 7 level is the bottom level and is at present being opened up by development, stope drives and stoping. During our visit the stope drive between Nos. 6 and 7 levels broke through thereby inducing a flow of 4,200 cumins down No 3 Adit thence up 74 S mainway to exhaust. All this area is now satisfactorily ventilated by large electric fans.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

As much work is at present being carried on in relation to stope drives and development there is little point in raising any complaints at this juncture, but once this work is completed (probably towards the end of September) then another thorough inspection and survey is warranted in order to ascertain whether or not any improvement has taken place.

It is highly doubtful, though, whether any improvement can be expected under the present mining, particularly stoping, methods. It would appear very desireable if another completely different type of stoping method could be employed such as that used in coal mining. Failing this, perhaps the present idea could be modified. Numerous different ideas are available whilst basically maintaining the present system. The present underground staff of this mine have many ideas for improving conditions and operations, but unfortunately the Management refuses to listen. It would appear the only chance of changing things is for pressure to be brought to bear from this Department.

The following points, previously listed in earlier reports, continue to form the nucleus of our minor troubles.

1. The main adit is very dry, especially under foot, thus causing some dust to be liberated into the intake air. If this was to be watered down at least once per shift much dust could be prevented from entering the mine workings.

2. Stricter supervision required generally, particularly towards the use of secondary ventilating appliances.

3. Notices such as "Keep Open" or "Keep Shut" as the case may be, be placed on all doors (Regulation 139).

TREATMENT PLANT.

Conditions in the mill, appear to be consistent with previous inspections. Average dust counts recorded are as follows --

June	1960	330 p.p.c.c.
September	1960	420 p.p.c.c.
November	1960	460 p.p.c.c.
August	1961	390 p.p.c.c.

Much dust is still being liberated from the primary crushing section, although work is in hand to prevent most of it entering the atmosphere inside the building. A count of 1000+ p.p.c.c. was recorded in this area therefore any improvement is better than none. This section will be closely watched in the future.

All men throughout the primary crushing section and bagging stations are still wearing masks over their mouths. Sprays continue to be a problem because of the necessity for dry treatment after the drying process.

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GENERAL.

Nothing as yet has been done regarding the dust from the mill entering the underground workings.

During the period of our visit no sign of this dust entering the mine workings was evident, although there is no doubt about it polluting the intake air when the prevailing winds blow from the right quarter. Dust counts taken at the No 2 level and No 4 level intakes recorded 130 and 30 p.p.c.c. respectively. The higher count on No 2 level would be caused by steping operations off this level polluting the small volume of air entering it.

During the process of counting the dust samples, particular attention was paid to the presence of asbestos fibre in each sample. Contrary to previous results, some fibre to a greater or lesser degree was visible in practically every underground sample, with emphasis on rise samples.

From the work done since by last visit and general observations throughout the mine it appears that the present Ventilation Officer is doing an excellent, although unenviable job against unsurmountable obstacles. It is only hoped, from our viewpoint, that he can continue his good work in the future, because it is only through a man of his calibre and ideas, that the problem at this mine can finally be overcome.

His co-operation along with the Underground Management has made our job much easier and it is only hoped that this co-operation will continue.

[signature]

Assistant Inspector of Mines.
(Ventilation).

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
14-8-61	Colonial	6 level 68^{S} Scraper	160	73	61	Scraping. Thro air.
		6 " 65^{S} Scraper	160	74.5	61.5	Scraping. Thro air.
		6 " 65^{S} S.A.W Stope	750	75.5	70	Tailman's position. Thro air. Poor flo
		6 " 65^{S} N. Stope.	610	73	68.5	Boring. Thro air. Poor flow.
		6 " 62^{S} Scraper	240	78	64	Scraping. Thro air.
		6 " 62^{S} S.A.W Stope	180	76	65	Boring. Thru air. Vel 30'/min.
		6 " 62^{S} S.A.E Stope	300	77.5	68	Boring. Duct 100' from face. Stope stopped till duct was extended. Vent. by 16" EF from level.
		6 " 6000^{S} Scraper	190	78.5	66	Scraping. Thro air.
		6 " 6000^{S} N. Stope drive.	290	79	72	Temp idle. Sat vent by 16" EF. from level.
		6 " 6000^{S} West Stope drive.	280	78	72.5	Boring. Sat vent by 16" EF.
		6 " 61^{W} West Stope Drive	1000+	78	74	Boring. Vent by 16" EF.
		6 " 61^{N} N.A.E Stope	270	79	74	Boring. Thro air.
		6 " 62^{N} E. Stope drive	590	79	75	Boring. Vent by 16" EF.
		6 " South Drive.	450	77.5	65	Boring. Vent by 16" EF.
		6 " No. 4 Adit drive.	370	77	63	Boring. Vent by 16" EF.
15-8-61		7 " North Drive	1000+	83	78.5	Mech bog. Vent by 24" to face with 16 EF exhausting. Duct 70' back from fac extended before work proceeded.
		7 " 74^{S} East Stope Drive	990	82.5	79	Boring. Vent from 16" EF from level.
		7 " 74^{S} Scraper	1000+	85	79	Scraping. Adjacent thro air. Poor flow. Vent to be installed.
		7 " No. 3 Adit.		82.5	73	Machine temp idle. Sat vent by 24" EF split.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
15-8-61	Colonial	7 level 76^{S} Manway Rise.	1000+	79	76	Boring. Vent by 24" EF split.
16-8-61		2 " 21^{S} L/S S&W Stope drive.	140	74	60	Boring. Vent by 12" EF from level.
		2 " 2000 L/S S&W Stope	270	74.5	69.5	Boring. Thru air Vel. 60'/min.
		2 " 2000 L/S N&W Stope	340	76	70	Hard bog. Thru air negative flow. 16" EF on level. Duct to be attached and extended into stope.
		2 " 2000 L/S Scraper	180	75	65	Scraping. Thro air.
		3 " 31^{S} L/S Sth Stope Drive	300	74	66.5	Boring. Vent by 16" EF split.
		3 " 31^{S} L/S S&W Stope Drive	150	73	65	Watering down. Vent by 16" EF split.
		3 " 3000 L/S West Stope	140	74	70	Boring. Thro air.
		3 " 3000 L/S E. Stope Drive	110	76	71	Boring. Vent by 16" EF.
		3 " 32^{S} L/S Scraper	180	69.5	64	Scraping. Thro air.
		3 " 32^{S} L/S N&W Stope	620	73	67	Boring. Thro air (Poor flow). E.F. being installed.
		4 " 43^{S} L/S Chute Rise.	30	69	51	Boring. Thro air.
		4 " 41^{S} L/S Scraper	300	73.5	62	Scraping. Thro air.
		4 " 41^{S} L/S East Stope	220	72	66.5	Tailman's position. Vent by 16" EF.
		4 " 41^{S} L/S S&W Stope	540	73	68.5	Boring. Thro air. Negative flow. Stope stopped till vent supplied by 16" EF split.
		4 " 41^{S} L/S West Stope	290	73	68.5	Boring. Thro air negative flow. Duct being installed. Vent by 16" EF split.
		4 " 4000 L/S Scraper	310	76.5	70	Scraping. Thro air Vel. 50'/min.
		4 " 4000 L/S S&E Stope	560	77	74	Boring. Thro air negative flow E.F. to be installed.
		4 " 4000 L/S S&W Stope	300	76.5	74.5	Boring. Thro air negative flow. EF. to be installed.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
16-8-61	Colonial	4 level 41N L/S N & W Stope	1000+	77	75.5	Tailman's position. Thro air negative flow. EF fan and duct at manway not being used. Stope stopped till duct was installed and EF operating.
		4 " 41N L/S N & E Stope	1000+	78	76.5	Machine temp idle. Thro air poor flow.
		4 " 41N L/S N & W Stope	1000+	77	74.5	" " " " " " "
		4 " 42N L/S W. Stope Drive.	360	78	72.5	Boring. Vent by 16" EF split.
		4 " 42N L/S N & W Stope	360	76.5	71.5	Boring. Vent by 16" EF split.
		4 " 42N L/S N & E Stope	750	79	76.5	Tailman's position. Thro air neg. flow.
		4 " 42N L/S Scraper	270	77	66.5	Scraping. Thro air.
17-8-61		5 " 53N Scraper	280	77.5	62.5	Scraping. Thro air.
		5 " 53N East Stope Drive.	190	78	70	Boring. Vent by 10" EF.
		5 " 53N West Stope	390	82.5	78	Tailman's position. Dead pocket. No vent.
		5 " 52N Scraper	210	76.5	63.5	Scraping. Thro air.
		5 " 52N N&W Stope	190	78.5	72	Charging. Thro air Vel. 10'/min.
		5 " 51N N&W Stope	210	78	72.5	Tailman's Position. Thro air Vel 40'/min
		5 " 51N Scraper	160	74	60	Scraping. Thro air.
		5 " 51S Scraper	380	75	61.5	Scraping. Thro air.
		5 " 51S N&W Stope	440	76.5	72	Charging. Thro air Vel 10'/min.
		5 " 52S N&W Stope	290	76.5	69	Charging. Thro air Vel 50'/min.
		5 " 53S S&W Stope	190	74	67	Charging. Thro air. Vel. 15'/min.

(Sgd) I. LOXTON.
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MINES.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
14-8-61	Colonial	6/L 68^{S} Scraper	380	73	61	Scraping. Thro air.
		6/L 68^{S} S&W Stope	670	72.5	70	Boring. Thro air Vel. 20'/min. 10" EF boosting airflow from level.
		6/L 68^{S} SW Stope Drive	710	79.5	77.5	Boring. Venturi 100' back from face 10" EF not on. Work stopped till 100' of bag was installed & fan turned on
		6/L 65^{S} Sth. Stope	950	78	74.5	Boring. Thro air. Poor flow.
		6/L 65^{S} S&W Stope	830	76.5	72.5	Boring. Thro air. Poor flow.
		6/L 65^{S} Scraper	50	78	69	Scraping. Thro air.
		6/L 62^{S} West Stope	140	77.5	68.5	Prep. to bore. Thro air boosted by 10" EF from level.
		6/L 62^{S} Nth Stope	160	77	65.5	Prep to bore. Thro air vel. 80'/min.
		6/L 6000^{S} S&W Stope	910	78	72.5	Boring. Thro air neg. flow Vel 5'/min
		6/L 6000^{S} S&E Stope	710	78	70	Boring. Thro air. Neg flow.
		6/L 6000^{S} Scraper	1000+	78.5	71	Scraping. Thro air.
		6/L 61^{N} West Stope Drive	1000+	82	78.5	Tailman's position. Bag 100' from face No bag available. 15" EF from level.
		6/L 61^{N} Scraper	290	81.5	71.5	Scraping. Thro air.
		6/L 61^{N} East Stope	830	79	74.5	Boring. Thro air. Poor flow. Vel 10' m
		6/L 62^{N} Scraper	270	82	75	Scraping. Thro air boosted by 16" EF
		6/L 62^{N} Nth Stope	840	81	76.5	Tailmans position. No vent duct. To be installed before day shift commences.
15-8-61		5/L 53^{S} S&W Stope	930	74.5	70	Hand bogging. Thro air Vel 15'/min. Conditions slightly smoky & dusty.
		5/L 52S N&W Stope	1000+	76	69	Hand bog. Thro air Vel 20'/min. Slightly smoky and dusty.
		5/L 51S Sth Stope	1000+	77	73	Boring. Thro air Neg. flow. Smoky and dusty.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
15-8-61	Colonial	5/L 5000^{S} N. Stope	510	76	70	Boring. Thro air Vel. 10'/min. dust haze thro. stope.
		5/L 5000^{S} Sth. Stope	590	77	71	Boring. Thro air Vel. 5-10'/min. dust haze thro stope.
		5/L 5000^{S} Scraper	370	73	59	Scraping. Thro air.
		5/L 53^{N} Scraper	220	77	62	Scraping. Thro air.
		5/L 53^{N} SW Stope Drive	610	80	77	Boring 100' from duct extended before work proceeded.
		5/L 52^{N} Scraper	330	76.5	67.5	Preparing to scrape. Thro air.
		5/L 52^{N} S. Stope	1000+	79.5	73	Tailman's position. Rigging block. Thro air Vel. 15'/min.
		5/L 52^{N} NW Stope	1000+	79.5	76.5	Boring. Neg. air flow.
		5/L 51^{N} NE Stope	1000+	78	71.5	Boring. Thro air Neg Vel 0-5'/min.
16-8-61		2/L 2000^{S} L.S. NW Stope	860	76	70.5	Prep to bore. duct 150' back extend before work continued.
		2/L 2000^{S} L.S. Nth Stope	1000+	77.5	74	Boring. Thro air. Neg flow tee piece to be installed in ducting to boost flow thro stope.
		2/L 2000^{S} L.S. Scraper	1000+	76.5	71	Scraping. Thro air Vel. 20'/min.
		3/L 31^{S} L.S. Scraper	170	72	57	Scraping. Thro air.
		3/L 52^{S} L.S. NW Stope	330	72	65.5	Boring. Thro air.
		3/L 328 L.S. West Stope Drive	1000+	72	62.5	Boring. Thro air boosted by 10" EF from level.
		3/L 328 L.S. Scraper	670	72	66	Scraping. Thro air.
		4/L 428 Scraper	1000+	76	63.5	Scraping. Thro air Poor flow.
		4/L 41e L.S. Scraper	260	72	65	Scraping. Thro air.
		4/L 41e L.S. E. Stope Drive	280	74	66.5	Boring. Sat vent by 16" EF.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
16-8-61	Colonial	4/L 41s L.S. N&E Stope	170	75.5	72.5	Prep to bore. Thro air Vel. 10'/min
		4/L 4000 L.S. Scraper	270	75.5	67.5	Scraping. Sat thro air.
		4/L 4000 L.S. E. Stope Drive	480	77	73	Boring. Sat vent by 12" EF from level
		4/L 4000 L.S. S&E Stope	1000+	77.5	76	Boring. Neg. air flow.
		4/L 41N S&W Stope	1000+	77.5	75.5	Boring. Neg air flow 12" EF blowing into stope to have duct connected and taken to face.
		4/L 41N L.S. W. Stope	1000+	77	74.5	Boring. Neg air flow 12" EF blowing into stope to have duct connected and taken to face.
		4/L 41N L.S. Scraper	400	77	72	Scraping. Thro air.
		4/L 42N L.S. Scraper	230	77	70	Scraping. Thro air.
		4/L 42N L.S. Nth. Stope	830	78.5	75	Boring. Thro air Vel 10'/min.
		4/L 42N L.S. N&W Stope	600	77	74.5	Boring. Thro air Vel. 20'/min.
		NOTE:- All the above samples were taken afternoon shift. (4.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.)				
			(Sgd) I. LOXTON, ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MINES.			

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TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

M.R. 149

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
14-8-61	Colonial	Main Adit No 2 Rose Chain Feeder.	250	72	56	Feeder working. Afternoon shift.
15-8-61		Main Adit between 2 & 3 levels.	960	71	55	Belts working.
16-8-61		" " " " "	1000+	71	56	Belts working.
17-8-61		No 2 level Main intake.	130	63	48	Main intake for No 2 level.
		Main Adit between 2 & 3 levels.	150	72	57.5	Belts working.
		Main Adit transfer belt.	370	74.5	61.5	Belts working.
		No 4 level intake.	30	69	51	Main intake for 4,5,6, & 7 levels.

Sgt. I. LOXTON.
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MINES.

TABULATION OF DUST COUNTS

DATE	MINE	PLACE	COUNT	TEMPERATURE DRY	TEMPERATURE WET	REMARKS
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED.						
18-8-61	Surface Plant	No 2 Adit Mine transfer chute.	360			12" EF exhausting from outside.
	Colonial.	Picking Station.	660			6 men employed here.
		Symons Crusher	1000+			
		Fibre separator	280			
		Crusher Switchboard	180			
		No 2 Screen Dry level.	260			
		Entrance to Mill No 1 leg.	290			Warm sunny day with a slight
		Screens floor	420			westerly wind blowing.
		Central switchboard	280			
		No 3 bagging station	210			
		No 1 and 2 bagging station	360			

(Sgd) I. LOXTON.
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF MINES.

154

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

M.D. 12

Memorandum

MINES DEPARTMENT, KALGOORLIE.

To The District Inspector of Mines, 27th October, 1960.
Mines Department,
C U E.

Re Australian Blue Asbestos Limited -
Language Problem.

Continual complaints regarding the inability of certain underground employees to speak the English language, together with the practice of engaging migrants directly off the boats at Fremantle indicates that the Mine Administration at Australian Blue Asbestos is not making a concerted effort to abide by the requirements of the Mines Regulation Act regarding the English language.

I realise your unenviable position; and although I know that the mine is making some small effort to teach the language, indications are that the problem is only considered a minor issue by the Mine Staff, and that they are not assisting you as they should.

The Mine Management must be made to realise their obligations, especially so, as the language problem is a main factor towards safety.

Enquiries have revealed that mines in other States tackle the problem firmly; at Mount Isa for instance, all migrants must attend a school for three months, and then be 'passed' before being allowed underground.

The large percentage of migrants at Wittenoom would prohibit this practice there for the present, but something firm must be done.

It is my intention that the underground employees be examined, but under the circumstances some small lattitude must be allowed.

The Mine Management will be notified that examinations will be conducted in say, three months, and that after that time, no person unable to speak the English language will be allowed underground.

As this mine is in your Inspectorate, perhaps you would like to take the matter up yourself.

You are, however, going on Long Service Leave and as we must not let the matter get out of hand, I think that we should not extend the period longer than three months.

If you prefer, I will take the matter up to assist you.

Will you please let me have your ideas.

SENIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 104090