FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

DATE: 1952

DOC#: CSR163

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(20)

WITTENOOM MINES FILE NO. 31/52:

13

Report on Recent Inspections of North West and Kimberley - by District Inspector of Mines, Cue, Boyland, J., 25.6.52.

WITTENOOM 14th May 1952

Australian Blue Asbestos are now employing 285 men of which approximately 85 work around the township. Of the remainder, 87 are employed underground. It is interesting to note that there is now practically no turnover in underground employees and very little in the surface sections.

For the past two months, production of fibre has amounted to approx 250 tons per month. As a production of 210 tons per month will just pay costs, it will be seen that at last, the company is showing a credit income from the operations.

Unerground conditions are very satisfactory and the introduction of more air legs has created such an increase in man shift production that there is a surplus of miners. Underground shift pays are also high ranging from between £5 to £12 per shift. Whilst underground I noticed electric cap lamps with only one globe filament, in use. These globes are new to me and I requested that as a safety precaution, only globes with two filaments be used. During the past few months development work has been pushed ahead at a rapid rate and has shown that the fibre content past the major fault (shown on our plans) is not of economic content. A new adit will be commenced from a position near the main offices. The position of the adit entrance will be approx 1160W 800'S (Coordinates as shown on Australian Blue Asbestos plan 1" = 80') The adit will follow a direction approx N20 W. The upper seam only will be opened up and stope blocks 150'x 150' will be opened up. It is anticipated that each block will produce 200 tons of fibre, estimated on 80% extraction. Surface prospecting is also being carried out in a position 100'E and 2100'N.

Several additions have been made in the mill and the dust hazard again become evident. I have now instructed the company to totally enclose the mill section and place larger extraction or cyclones. If the temperature increases, cool air is to be introduced.

A new changeroom is also to be built.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 10-2720

(21)

COPY FROM MINES FILE NO. 31/52.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MINES DEPARTMENT,

The State Mining Engineer, CUE, 17th September, 1952.
PERTH.

Hereunder are brief notes made during my recent tour of inspection.

(sgd.) J. Boylen.
DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES, CUE.

FILE
29 OCT 1952
MINES DEPT.

WITTENOOM. (Australian Blue Asbestos.)

Conditions here have improved still more. At my request, the mill building is being totally enclosed and a great improvement can already be seen in dust control. Production is now on a paying basis, but as the present price received for the asbestos is of an inflated nature, it is evident that production must increase until the output reaches at least 500 tons of asbestos per month before the project can be classed as a sound business. Several alterations in screening and bagging have been made and this has also lessened the dust nuisance.

A severe set back has been encountered underground. A zone of 'coker' and 'dead' fibre has been encountered and this stretches right across from Wittenoom Gorge to Western Gorge and a chain further. The area of useless fibre is at least 1,500 ft wide. This zone is located in the major fault area shown on plans. This has set back development for (an average footage) 12 months. The new adit workings are being rushed ahead and although the set back is severe, no time will be lost. It is interesting to note that practice has reverted to the use of machine bars carrying 2 machines and that Jackhos and air legs are now used in the large main drift where footage is essential. Very few men leave Wittenoom now.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 10273.0