



Minerals and Extractive Operations Newsletter

Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines

The 48th annual Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines (CCIM)

National Mine Safety Framework

Mr Clive Brown provided the CCIM with an outline of decisions taken by the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR) and Prime Minister and State Premiers under the Council of Australian Governments over the last 12 months in relation to progressing development of the National Mine Safety Framework (NMSF). The NMSF Steering Group was established at the request of the MCMPR and is committed to progressing three of the NMSF strategies dealing with Legislation (Strategy 1), Data (Strategy 5) and Consultation (Strategy 6) over the next 12 months.

South Australia respectively, have been provided to Steering Group representatives for comment. Working Groups have subsequently been convened to consider data 'stock-take', explore models for the collection and dissemination of commonly collected statistics, consider national consultation mechanisms, and make recommendations on legislation (Act, regulations, codes) to be fed into the Legislation Working Group.

Safety Performance

The Conference reviewed circumstances involving fatalities and high potential or major/significant incidents in each jurisdiction over the last 12 months. Final statistics and data for the period will be reported by each State and the Northern Territory via websites and published reports.

The Conference agreed on the development of a template for the timely reporting and dissemination of safety alert advice in a risk management format, which would be compatible with the Mineral Industry Risk Management Gateway (MIRMgate) website database. This matter is to be progressed by Queensland and Victoria, with a draft template to be circulated to all jurisdictions in early 2007.

The Legislation Working Group with representation from the New South Wales and Queensland governments, Minerals Council of Australia, Queensland Resources Council, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and Australian Workers' Union has prepared a draft overarching legislative principles document. A summary of legislation within each jurisdiction has been compiled and the MCMPR Secretariat has identified 49 mining health and safety legislative instruments in Australia.

Data and Consultation strategies, prepared by Victoria and

was held in Perth from 7-10 October 2006. The conference was hosted by the Western Australia Department of Consumer and Employment Protection and chaired by Mr John Mitas, Chief

Inspector of Mines, Victoria, with representation from all States (and apologies from Tasmania and Papua New Guinea), Northern Territory, Commonwealth and New Zealand. The Hon Clive Brown, a former Chair of the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources and Minister for Trade and State Development, Western Australia, attended the first plenary session of the conference in his capacity as Chair of the recently convened National Mine Safety Framework Steering Group.

Prior to the conference, the Chief Inspectors visited Alcoa Australia's Huntly bauxite mining and Pinjarra processing operations about 90km south of Perth. With annual production of over 20 mtpa, Huntly ranks as the world's largest bauxite mine and has achieved international recognition for its restoration of landforms and rehabilitation after mining of self-sustaining jarrah-marri forest ecosystems within water supply catchments.



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Deanmac Team Wins Mines Rescue Competition



For further information, please contact Ms Wendy Cook—telephone: 03 5441 2831



The Deanmac Fire and Rescue Team from Loy Yang is the overall winner of the Minerals Council of Australia's 2nd Victorian Rescue Competition for Surface Mines and Quarries for 2006. Deanmac won the event ahead of five other teams from across Victoria's surface mining and quarrying operations. Second was the Oscar 1 quarry and mine emergency response team from Bendigo.

The competition, held in Anglesea at Alcoa's coal mine and the nearby scouting complex, tested the capabilities of the mine and quarry emergency response teams in industrial rescue, fire fighting, first aid and team skills in realistic mine situations.

The Minerals Council of Australia, Victorian Division Executive Director, Mr Chris Fraser, said the minerals industry's number one priority is the safety and health of the people who work in our industry.

"Competitions that improve the skills of our emergency response teams are important

in ensuring a strong safety culture. The team members are all well trained individuals that are highly respected in their work places. The competitions not only assist in honing the skills of the teams but in facilitating networking and mutual assistance between the competing companies."

The Captain of the Oscar 1 team, Mr Jim Wilding, won the prestigious Captains Award at the competition for a second year in a row.

The awards for the competition were made at a dinner on Saturday 11 November at the Anglesea Golf Club. The award winners were:

First-Aid – Deanmac, Loy Yang

Industrial Rescue – Oscar 1, Bendigo

Fire Fighting – Readymix Quarries, Mt Shamrock

Skills – Oscar 1, Bendigo

Captains Award – Jim Wilding, Oscar 1

Team Safety – Estate Services, Yallourn

Overall Aggregate Winner – Deanmac, Loy Yang

The Minerals Council of Australia and the Department of Primary Industries congratulates all the competitors in



this year's competition and acknowledges the very strong support from the sponsors and volunteers from across the industry including the adjudicators and casualties. The strong support of Alcoa and the staff at Anglesea is also greatly appreciated.

DPI has been a long-term sponsor of both the underground and surface mine rescue competition.

Work Plan Guidelines



The updated work plan guidelines for quarry sites of a size greater than 5Ha and 2 metres in depth (G3 guidelines) are now available at the DPI Minerals and Petroleum website.

Accompanying the guidelines is a client work plan checklist to assist in the production of the work plan. Major additions/changes to the G3

guidelines include updated information for the work plan proposal, natural resource information, an environmental management plan and updated plan, section and rehabilitation drawings.

To facilitate the introduction of the work plans Minerals and Petroleum held an industry forum on the 29th Novem-

ber 2007. The forum was attended by consultants, quarry representatives and department district managers.

Thanks go to the CMPA, Institute of Quarrying and Bell Cochrane and Associates for their invaluable assistance in producing these guidelines.

Significant Incident Reports

All the Significant Incident reports are published on the Department's website www.dpi.vic.gov/minerals under Petroleum/Health and Safety/Significant Incidents.

The latest Significant Incident Reports are attached to this newsletter for distribution and discussion with your employees.

The Department has commenced emailing Significant Incident Reports to Tenement Holders as they become avail-

able.

If you would like to be included on this email list, please email jane.fay@dpi.vic.gov.au quoting your Tenement Number/s and the appropriate email address.



Staff movements at DPI

Minerals & Petroleum division's Program Managers for Planning and Environmental Management, Joel Twining and Susan Ryan, have moved on. Joel has taken a position with the DSE planning group and Susan has moved to the DSE water policy group. Joel carried through a number of important developments in his time with the Department including development of the mining and extractive industry practice notes now attached to the Victoria Planning Provisions and negotiation of the new Memorandum of Under-

standing with DSE regarding exploration approvals. Sue had carriage of the group's policies and procedures on industry environmental management, was responsible for the completion of the Department's tailings management policies and managed the development of significant initiatives such as the current draft Code of Practice for Exploration and the new policies and assessment tools for bonds.

Program Manager for Industry Safety, Darryl Casey, is

also leaving the Department. Most recently Darryl has taken on responsibility for coordination of the transition of safety regulation from DPI to the Victorian WorkCover Authority. He has accepted a position with the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy.

The Department has also re-advertised the new position of Program Manager Community Engagement. This person will guide Mineral and Petroleum's development of policies and new initiatives for

community engagement over the coming years.

This will be a particularly important role given the responsibilities for engagement now incorporated in the *Minerals Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and the new Pipelines Act.

Applications for this and the Program Manager Planning position are currently being assessed. The position of Program Manager Environment will be advertised shortly and the Department is keen to hear from potential applicants.

Targeted Audit of Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs)

Have you ever asked yourself where tailings storage facility management begins? Well, now is the time to refresh your memory, because MPR will be conducting tailings storage facilities (TSFs) audits during the months of March,

April and May 2007. You will find all you need to know on the Minerals and Petroleum page of DPI's Website, under Environment Guidelines, November 2004 – *Management of Tailings Storage Facilities Guidelines*. This document

is available as a PDF for convenient printing.

MPR aims to obtain a position report about TSF management across the state, as well as the approach used by mine and quarry owners to meet their obligations with

For more information about these vacant positions go to www.careers.vic.gov.au/ or call Doug Sceney on 03 96584433

Targeted Audit of Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs) continues

regard to safe and stable containment of tailings and slimes. Specifically, MPR will:

1. Carry out inspections of the TSF;
2. Look at your records about inspections, maintenance, environmental monitoring, auditing and tailings transfers; and
3. Assess the adequacy of TSF



emergency response plans in case of incidents and accidents (such as an uncontrolled release of tailings, or containment failure).

During the inspection a number of key risk areas will be assessed. These include [but may not be

limited to] TSF siting issues, embankment stability, lining and seepage issues, available freeboard, any discharges, pipes and associated equipment, fencing and signage. If a site is storing tailings containing chemicals of concern, MPR may also review management practices specific to those chemicals. The inspection is the ideal time to ask questions and discuss options for waste minimisation and rehabilitation of the TSFs in the context of the site Work Plan.

MPR will be looking for adequate controls that demonstrate site performance against requirements and standards. The environmental monitoring and auditing or inspection records are of significance and may highlight seasonal and operational issues for consideration and discussion. Accu-

rate records inform management decision making and provide continuity during staff changes.

DPI officers will be assessing the contents of the *emergency response plan* against each site's TSF specifications as well as the proforma provided as Appendix V in the November 2004 guidelines. Importantly, the plan allows for organised and timely control of abnormal circumstances, thereby reducing risks to health, safety and the environment. All personnel must be aware of their role during an emergency, and where to find the necessary information for management and reporting of incidents.

Refining Your Safety Management System/Plan

The Institute of
Quarrying Australia in
conjunction with
Department of Primary
Industries, Victoria
Presents

You are invited to attend a (one) workshop on 'Refining Your Safety Management System/Plan' on a selection of dates and locations, each starting at 8.30am and finishing at 4pm. Workshops will be held at DPI offices:

MELBOURNE
21 February 2007
L16, 1 Spring Street

BALLARAT
18 April 2007
State Government Offices,
cnr Mair & Doveton Streets

BENDIGO
6 June 2007
cnr Midland Highway

and Taylor Street, Epsom

TRARALGON
22 August 2007
71 Hotham Street

BENALLA
3 October 2007
35 Sydney Road

The workshop is an extension to previous workshops that explained the need for safety management systems or plans and provided guidance in their development. It will update those already underway with their safety improvement, and provide additional guidance. Workshop facilitators include regional DPI

Inspectors and IQA representative Graham Terrey (formerly Director Mine Safety and Chief Inspector with the NSW Department).

The workshop will suit those who already have a safety management plan and who wish to gain additional insight into critical components in the implementation of their plans. It will help meet today's increased levels of due diligence and duty of care in making sites safe and in systematically managing risks. There have been numerous calls for help in turning safety management plans into a practical document that makes a valuable contribution



Refining Your Safety Management System/Plan continued....

throughout the year. So, in the workshops, particular emphasis will be given to:

- is your Safety management Plan working?
- is it easy to use and easy to communicate?
- are you measuring progress and using appropriate standards?
- identifying and accomplishing improvements (such as hazard identification, workplace inspections, keeping appropriate records, annual safety improvement actions, risk control strategies and major hazard plans)
- Contractors' safety.

The workshop will be practical, with additional resources



supplied and you will be able to share your experiences with others at a similar step in the safety journey. You are asked to bring your Mine Safety Management System/Plan to the workshop as there will be an opportunity for individual feedback/assistance from the facilitators.

Numbers will be limited to provide individual feedback so please register early; if there is a big demand additional workshops will be convened. The registration fee covers the cost of catering, venue hire and resource material. Participants will receive, in addition to presentation material, a copy of *Risk Management Pocket Guide* and *General Workplace Inspection Checklist*, with new forms to assist with risk management and contractor management.

Please fill in the attached form to advise which workshop you will attend and forward it with your payment to the address indicated. Second and subsequent registrations from the same site may be made at a significant discount.

Please register no later than one week prior to the workshop.

OHS Transition

On 24 October the Government announced the transfer of responsibility for OHS regulation of the resources sector from DPI to VWA from 1 January 2008.

DPI & VWA have now met and established a Steering Group to manage the transition process and on-going co-operation between the agencies. VWA members are Geoff Thomas, Pieter Rienks & Cath Duane. DPI members are Richard Aldous, Phil Roberts & John Mitas.

VWA has appointed Katrina Hansen to project manage the establishment of its capacity/systems to regulate the sector and the transition process.

The Steering Committee will

use the established tripartite forum as stakeholder reference group for the transition process and the establishment of VWA capacity/systems. The forum will continue to be chaired and supported by DPI through 2007, after which VWA will chair and support the forum.

Some of the key issues which will be addressed in the transition process include:

- Management of/ participation in on-going regulatory actions (investigations, notices, prosecutions). *It has been agreed that VWA will have carriage of all major new investigations between now and 2008. DPI will continue current prosecutions.*

- VWA access to DPI records of audits, notices, prosecutions, site & tenement information, etc.
- VWA access to information on DPI OHS programs and business systems, and knowledge transfer re mines/quarries/petroleum sites.
- Referral of H&S aspects of work/operations plans to VWA.
- Ongoing co-operation between agencies in on-site regulation, including emergency response.
- VWA proposed structural arrangements and resourcing for undertaking re-

OHS Transition continued.....

sources sector OHS regulation.

- VWA recruitment plans and induction of new recruits. *VWA advises that recruitment will require Board approval, but is expected to commence in February 2007.*
- Consultation with CPSU/FSU.
- Input to the National Mine Safety Framework.
- Drafting a new MOU & status of the existing MOU.
- Learnings from the Beaconsfield Inquiry and future actions.

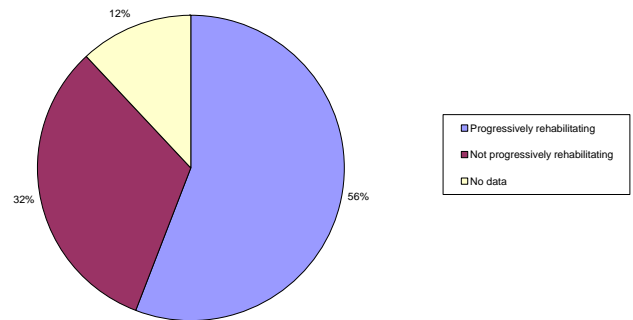
Progressive Rehabilitation Audit

A Progressive Rehabilitation audit was carried out by the Minerals and Extraction Operations group, from September to November 2006.

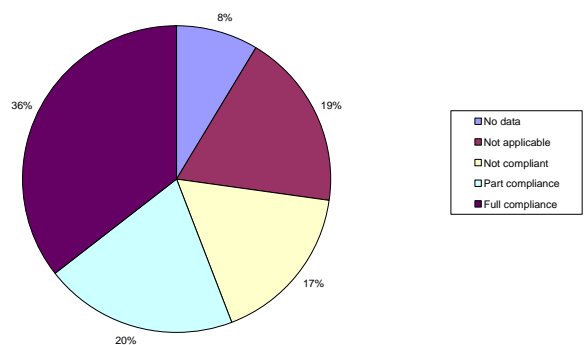
The purpose of the audit was to identify the extent of the mines and quarries sampled that progressively rehabilitated their sites, and whether the rehabilitation performed, was in accordance with the approved rehabilitation plan. A total of 59 sites were audited across Victoria.

The audit findings indicate that 56% of the visited sites where carrying out rehabilitation on their sites. There is a lot of scope for industry to improve compliance in relation to progressive rehabilitation. The audit also highlighted that the standard of rehabilitation could also improve.

% of mines and quarries currently rehabilitating their sites



Compliance with Workplan Rehabilitation Requirements



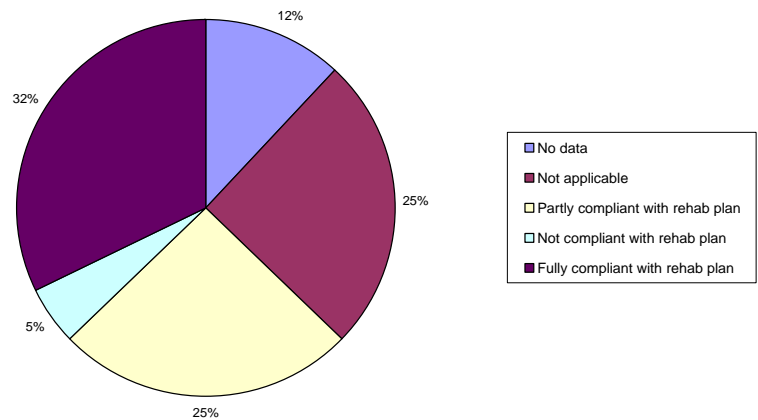
Progressive Rehabilitation Audit continued.....

The success of rehabilitation is also a concern to the Department.

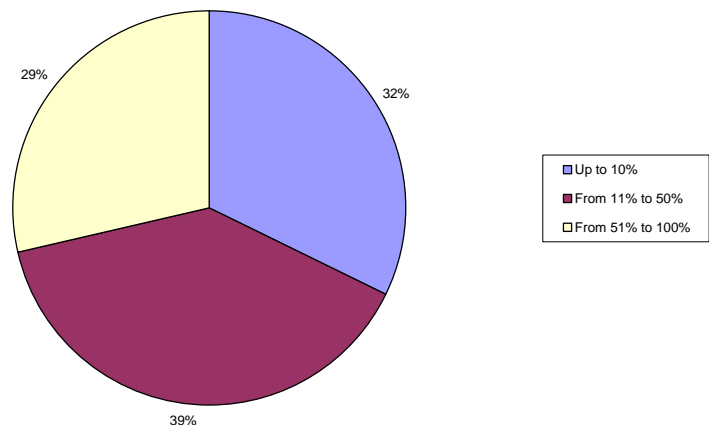
The rehabilitation liability is proportional to the total disturbed area. Of all the sites visited 29% were found to have at least half the approved extraction area disturbed.

The Department will work with Industry to ensure that the standard of rehabilitation improves and the rehabilitation liability is reduced.

Successful Rehabilitation Program



% of Disturbed area rehabilitated



Department of Primary Industries

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