

## New legislation will make NSW mining safer

The *Mine Health and Safety Bill 2004*, which will soon be introduced to the NSW Parliament, is another step forward in the Carr Government's mine safety initiative that is protecting the health and safety of NSW mine workers.

When this Bill is passed, and then supported by Regulations, it will replace the Mines Inspection Act of 1901. The new legislation will then apply to metalliferous and extractive mining operations, which is all mining in NSW except coal or shale oil, covered by their own legislation.

The new legislation will supplement the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*, which covers all workers in NSW. It will build on this Act by addressing the particular hazards and specific requirements of the mining industry.

The Mine Health and Safety Bill was drafted with the advice of the Mine Safety Advisory Council in

### Mineral Resources joins Department of Primary Industry

Under restructuring announced by the NSW Government on April 6, the Department of Mineral Resources will become part of the combined Department of Primary Industries along with Departments of Fisheries, Agriculture and Forests. Mineral Resources will retain its identity under Minister Kerry Hickey and will continue to provide its range of services, including Regulatory Development and Safety, to the NSW Mining Industry. The move of Mineral Resources from Sydney to Maitland is planned for November this year, see page 11.



Kerry Hickey, Minister for Mineral Resources (centre) discussing the design, production, supply and lifecycle maintenance of safe, fit for purpose mining equipment with Gordon Jervis, DMR Senior Inspector of Mechanical Engineering (left) and Ian MacCowan, South East Region General Manager of Komatsu

conjunction with a public information campaign and extensive consultation program with all those who are concerned with safety and health in the mining industry. The Council and its Committees are made up of representatives from industry, unions and government.

The new legislation will apply modern occupational health and safety standards to the metalliferous and extractive industry sectors of NSW mining. It will clearly define the duty of care of employers and employees and the fundamental rights of employees relating to their health, safety and welfare.

Every mine will have to establish and implement a systematic approach to Occupational Health and Safety and the new legislation will clearly set out the components of this system.

It will also provide a better framework for establishing safe work systems for contractors, who are an increasing part of the mining industry workforce. ■■



## In this issue....



Page 1



Page 7



Page 10



Page 11

<b>New legislation will make NSW mining safer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mineral Resources joins Primary Industry</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) Seminar</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OHS legislation training for Inspectors</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>From paperwork to practice</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Report points to safety improvements</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>New approval process for subsidence</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Diesel particulate matter trials begin</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Protect your young workers</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Gazette Notices</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New website launched</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chrysotile asbestos banned</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>White Cliffs Safety Courses</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Prosecutions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Coming Events</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Amnesty</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Safety Management Plan workshops</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Safety Alerts</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>New Faces</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Department moving to Maitland</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Departmental Offices</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Subscription form</b>	<b>12</b>



*The New South Wales Government is targeting improved safety in all sectors of the mining industry.*

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Information is provided in this newsletter to promote the enhancement of the safety culture of NSW mining and to alert a wide range of people to potential risks and to potential risk controls. Each site must manage its own risks according to its own hazard identification, risk assessment, control systems and monitoring process. Whereas all care is taken in producing NSW Mine Safety Update, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources accepts no responsibility for accuracy of information supplied. Inclusion of any product, service or company in NSW Mine Safety Update does not imply NSW Government or NSW Department of Mineral Resources endorsement. © NSW Department of Mineral Resources

# “Would you be happy to have your son or daughter working with equipment you designed or supplied?”

Rob Regan, Assistant Director Safety & Technical Services in the NSW Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), used these words to conclude the Original Equipment Manufacturers' (OEM) seminar at Penrith on March 10.

He was making the point that supplying safe equipment should be a matter of personal responsibility, as well as an obligation under OHS legislation.

Over 100 people from 50 different companies attended the one-day seminar, which discussed the role of designers, manufacturers and suppliers in mine safety.

Graham Terrey, Director of Mine Safety, DMR, told those attending that the seminar was part of a continuing campaign. It has involved presentations at the annual NSW Mineral Industry OHS Conferences and DMR Mine Mechanical Engineering Conferences on improving safety performance by ensuring fit for purpose equipment, competent people and safety management systems within a safe and healthy working environment.

The way to achieve fit for purpose equipment is detailed in the

DMR developed *MDG15: Guidelines for Mobile and Transportable Equipment for Use in Mines*. Workshops on this Guideline are showing equipment users how to use MDG15 to acquire new equipment which is fit for purpose before it leaves the factory.

MDG15 can also be used to bring existing equipment up to today's safety standards. Designing out hazards before equipment is delivered is the preferred approach because it is more expensive, and often less effective, to modify equipment already in service.

Over recent weeks the DMR has also run seminars for mining equipment users in which actual miners have presented case histories of how they have purchased fit for purpose equipment or modified existing equipment to make it safer.

At the OEM seminar, Fiona Inverarity, from Price Waterhouse Coopers



George Vorobieff, Executive Officer of the Construction and Mining Equipment Association of Australia, comments on the design and delivery of safe equipment during the OEM seminar

Legal, spoke of the legal obligations of equipment manufacturers and suppliers under NSW OHS and mining legislation. She told how failure to meet the duty of care through not supplying safe equipment could lead to prosecutions and criminal convictions.

Safety Consultant, Tony Reczek, explained the risk-based approach to satisfying the duty of care within the design, manufacturing and supply process. He then conducted a workshop session in which attendees contributed to a thorough risk assessment, which will eventually apply across the mining industry.

Those attending the seminar agreed the risk assessment should be carried forward to completion. The Construction and Mining Equipment Association of Australia has undertaken to complete this task in conjunction with the DMR.

A preliminary report has already been made on the OEM project to the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council.

For further information contact: George Vorobieff, Executive Officer of the Construction and Mining Equipment Association of Australia on 02 9884 7236 or Gordon Jervis, DMR Senior Inspector of Mechanical Engineering. 02 4924 2300. ■■■



Julian Carrigan, a Drill and Blast Supervisor at Boral, describes how a pre-purchase risk assessment, in conjunction with the equipment manufacturer, resulted in the supply of a safer drill rig. Professor Dennis Else, convenor of the seminar and Chairman of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, is standing to the left of Julian

# OHS legislation training for Inspectors

During February, 60 Inspectors, Mine Safety Officers and other staff members from the Mine Safety Division of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources, attended a full day training seminar on Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

The seminar updated their knowledge of how the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* applies to their efforts to support the improvement of safety performance in all NSW mines.

This Act covers the health and safety of all workers in all NSW workplaces, including those working in mines. The recent Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002, and the coming Mine Health and Safety Bill 2004, are supplementary legislation to the OHS Act.

This legislation is based on a "Duty of care" that employers have for employees and all workers have for others in the workplace. Those who must exercise a duty of care include mine operators, labour hire companies, supervisors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers and everybody in the workplace.

Seminar presenter was Neil Foster, who lectures in OHS law at the University of Newcastle. He explained how modern OHS law is moving away from being prescriptive to outcomes or performance based.



Neil Foster, OHS Lecturer (standing) discusses action resulting from a mythical incident with DMR Inspectors and Safety Officers from left: John Tsallos, David Howell, Gaham Cowan, Gordon Jervis, Paul Hamson and Tim Martin

As an example, a prescriptive regulation might say that a barrier of a certain height must be used to stop anybody falling over a gap. An outcome-based method requires the owner of the premises or workplace and the employer to identify the hazard by risk assessment and then put into place sufficient means to prevent anybody being killed or injured through falling from heights.

Under modern OHS law, an incident, injury or fatality does not need to happen for action to be taken by an Inspector. Instead, the presence of risk through a failure to manage or eliminate a hazard is sufficient cause for an Inspector to follow the stages of enforcement, which can include advice, notices and prosecutions.

Prosecutions can be made against any person or company and the penalties can range from fines to imprisonment for serious breaches of OHS Legislation.

The seminar for Inspectors is part of the intensive mining industry, safety training program being organised or supported by the Mine Safety Division of the Department of Mineral Resources. Over recent years this has included:

- organising conferences and seminars for check inspectors, electrical and mechanical engineers
- running new legislation information sessions at venues around NSW
- presenting papers on safety and legislation to various conferences such as the NSW Minerals Industry OHS Conference

OHS training is continuing and an education seminar series will be held for mining people when the Mine Health and Safety Bill has been passed by the NSW Parliament. Venues and dates for this and other seminars will be notified to mines by mail, listed in Mine Safety Update Magazine, and featured on the website at [http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/upcoming\\_events.htm](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/upcoming_events.htm) under Coming Events. ■■■

## From paperwork to practice

**The NSW Minerals Council and the NSW Department of Mineral Resources are working together to ensure the 2004 NSW Mining Industry OHS Conference is a success.**

The conference will be at Peppers Fairmont Resort, Leura, Blue Mountains from July 25 to July 27. The theme is "From Paperwork to Practice" and it will highlight practical and workable solutions to occupational health and safety in the mining industry workplace.

Major topics will include health, plant safety, contractor safety and safety leadership. The social program includes golf, white water rafting, bushwalking and the Edge Cinema.

Further information from Jodie Hooper at the NSW Minerals Council, phone (02) 8202 7200.

# Report points to safety improvements

There has been a downward trend in incidents and injuries, according to results from the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre's Report to the Mine Safety Advisory Council.

The University of NSW's Research Centre, found there has been an Overall reduction in serious injuries, fatalities, percentage of reportable incidents with injury and signs of earlier reporting of potential incidents.

Co-authored by Ann Williamson and Usha Garg of the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre, University of NSW, the report is currently being reviewed by the MSAC, a tripartite organisation with members representing government, mining industry and unions.

All of the injuries reported were either serious or required to be reported by regulation or the result of any incident, which was required to be reported.

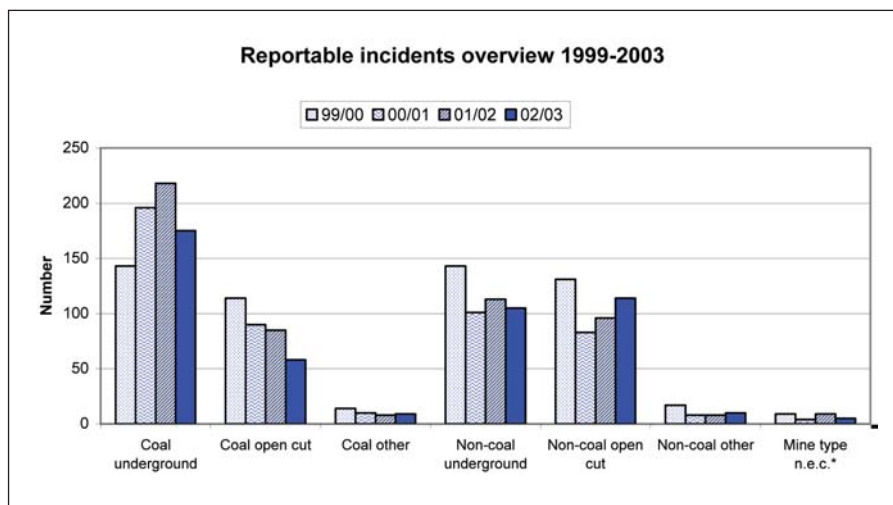
"The decrease in fatal and serious injuries is an encouraging sign," according to Dr Williamson. An increasing number of reports of dangerous incidents was also evident.

"This may reflect an important shift to reporting and acting earlier before a major incident occurs. It is important that the industry maintains this trend," she said.

The data was collected from the Department's COMET system, which stands for Common Mines Environment, implemented in 1999 to bring together and make available a collection of databases associated with mine safety and environment.

Developed to better capture, analyse and manage data to assist in management, COMET provides industry with information to help make direct improvements in safety performance.

The data base captured all matters notified to the Department.



*Incident events and injury events in NSW mines and quarries subject to Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982, Mines Inspection Act 1901 and accidents Incidents and events required to be reported to Department of Mineral Resources Reporting period = 1 July 1999 - 30 June 2003.*

The detailed analysis of 2,076 incidents in NSW mines reported to the DMR from 1999 to 2003 showed the following:

- About equal numbers of incidents were reported from the coal and mining other than coal. This non-coal group includes the metalliferous and extractive sectors which have shown a shift to early reporting of incidents with potential to produce harm.
- For about one quarter of the incidents, an injury resulted.
- Underground mines had more reports than open-cut operations for both coal and non-coal sectors, although the underground coal sector had the highest number of reports in all years. The number of reports from open-cut coal mines has been decreasing steadily.
- The average hours worked per employee in the coal sector has decreased in underground operations and increased slightly in open-cut operations.
- The percentage of incidents in the DMR database involving an injury decreased considerably from 99/00 and 00/01. By 02/03, only around one in five of the incidents involved an injury.
- Most injuries were relatively minor. While serious injuries stayed roughly the same.

- Lost time injuries reduced considerably and less serious first-aid injuries became an increasing proportion of the injury incidents.

The report also showed trends in the way injuries were caused. In 1999/2000 the most common injuries were being hit by a moving object, contact with electricity and muscular stress with no objects being handled.

In more recent years, contact with electricity was clearly the most common injury-related incident and has been increasing.

According to John Waudby, DMR Senior Inspector of Mine Electrical Engineering, this increased reporting is mainly due to a more vigilant system where even the most minor electric shock is reported.

Other trends revealed in the report show a decrease in injuries to the hip, back and spine of mine workers. This could be attributed to the less physical nature of mining where machinery is increasingly used.

The full report is shortly to be published on the DMR website, which will include an overall summary and specific statistics for each mining sector, coal, extractive and metalliferous. ■■■

# New approval process for subsidence

The NSW Government has just introduced a new approval process for underground coal mining in cases where there could be surface subsidence.

From 18 March 2004, an approved Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) is required wherever underground mining is likely to lead to subsidence.

SMP approvals will be granted only after all potential impacts on the environment and landholders have been considered. The views of the community and other government agencies will be fully taken into account. Issues relating to the use of the coal resources are addressed by the Safety Operations group of the Department of Mineral Resources. Safety Operations also examines applications from a safety perspective.

In developing the new process, the Department consulted with other Government environmental agencies, representatives of the coal mining industry and the peak environment groups.

## SMP preparation and approval

All subsidence assessment related to environmental, land use, community and resource use issues will now be controlled under an SMP. Based on a full land use description and impact assessment, it must consider watercourses, wetlands, aquifers, water-related ecosystems, forests, cliff lines, pipelines and areas of heritage or archaeological significance.

Approval of SMP applications will be the responsibility of the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources who will be advised by DMR officers and an inter-agency committee. The committee will include representatives from agencies such as the Sydney Catchment Authority and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

## Legislation

Approvals for underground coal mining with the potential for surface subsidence were previously considered under section 138 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982 (CMRA). These approvals were used to control all potential impacts related to subsidence including mine and public safety, land use and environmental impacts.

With the new process, preparation of an SMP, its implementation and review will be managed under the Mining Act 1992. Occupational health and safety and public safety issues will continue under section 138 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982. The requirement for SMP will become a condition of the mining lease of all new and existing underground coal mines.

## The new process will apply to all underground coal mines.

Existing underground coal mines, which already have development consent or operate under existing use rights will require the preparation

and approval of SMP before beginning new mining which may cause subsidence.

## Information on the new process

An industry information session was held in December 2003, and two workshops, one in Penrith and one in Maitland, have provided in-depth practical review of the SMP application process and the issues industry needs to address in preparing SMP application.

A comprehensive information package has been developed and is available on the DMR's website [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au) on the Environment page. See <http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/enviro/subsidence.htm> or you can obtain printed material from the Department's Information counter at St Leonards, phone (02) 9901 8268

For information on applications, contact Gang Li, Principal Subsidence Engineer, on 02 4942 2300, or Ken Hollands, Assistant Director, Environment Division, on 02 9901 8471. ■■

## DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER TRIALS BEGIN

Mine site trials of portable instruments that can measure diesel particulate matter (DPM) in the exhaust from diesel powered mining equipment are planned to begin at the end of the May. These trials are part of a project that is being conducted by the NSW Department of Mineral Resources and financed by a grant of \$290,000 from the Coal Services Health and Safety Trust. The aim of the project is to develop a method for measuring DPM in raw exhaust that is practical for field use at mine sites, both above and below ground. The project has already included evaluation of existing methods, selection of methods to be tested and laboratory testing of selected methods

on an engine being run on a dynamometer. Diesel particulate matter is a known to be a possible carcinogen. It is also known that several factors influence the amount of DPM, which is released to the atmosphere. These include the technology of the diesel engine system, fuel, maintenance and servicing. Reliable methods of field testing are important because it is difficult to manage the health risk if DPM cannot be accurately measured in the mines.

For further information, contact Clive Ellis of the Department of Mineral Resources, Mine Safety technical Services on 02 9646 1644. ■■

# Protect your young workers

Starting a new job can be an exciting experience for young people entering the workforce or a new workplace.

Employers and those in control of workplaces need to be conscious that young workers often join the workforce keen, enthusiastic, ready to please and usually unwilling to speak up. This can make them particularly vulnerable.

Employers must pay special attention to the health and safety of young workers. Workplace hazards need to be identified, the risk of injury assessed and appropriate control measures put in place to ensure health and safety is not put at risk. In particular, young workers need appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision to undertake their work safely.

Working on construction sites, working at heights, using electrical equipment, plant or machinery are all areas of immediate high risk. Others, like working with chemicals or repetitive processes, can cause injury or illness over a period of time.

A culture of workplace safety needs to be established that doesn't

accept the risk of injury "as part of the job". Workplaces need to be appropriately managed and the potential for injury or illness identified, assessed and suitably controlled to ensure safety. Workers, young and old, have a legitimate role to assist this process and should be appropriately consulted.



Young workers, like this driver, need to be protected

Under the new occupational health and safety legislation, employers must:

- identify the safety risks associated with the tasks their workers are required to perform and put in place procedures to eliminate or control these risks
- train workers in these procedures and provide them with any safety equipment they may need to use
- ensure they perform their tasks safely by providing supervision, training and support
- encourage them to raise with their supervisor any safety issues they may encounter.

WorkCover has produced two publications to help businesses and young workers better understand their rights and obligations with regard to work place safety.

*Starting work? Know your legal rights* (catalogue no. 915) and *Protecting young workers from workplace hazards* (catalogue no. 227) can be ordered from the WorkCover Publications Hotline on 1300 799 003.

For further information, visit the WorkCover website [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) or phone the WorkCover Assistance Service on 13 10 50. ■■

## Gazette Notices

A Gazette notice, published in December 2003, provided for Certificates of Conformity (AUS Ex, ANZEx and IEC Ex, issued by Australian Certification Bodies, for explosion-protected electrical apparatus (flameproof, intrinsically safe, increased safety etc) to be considered as approved.

A Gazette notice, published in January, provided for workshops that overhaul and repair explosion-protected electrical apparatus for use in NSW coal mines (flameproof, intrinsically safe, increased safety etc) to be considered as approved if they have been certified by a JAS-ANZ product certification body or accredited under the NATA or JAS-ANZ Inspection Program. ■■

## New website launched

A new website was launched in March called the Minerals Industry Risk Management Gateway (MIRMGate). You'll find it on <http://www.mirmgate.com/> or you can get to it from a hot link from the DMR website <http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/links.htm>

MIRMGate provides access to a useful database of information related to hazard and risk management in mining, minerals processing and quarrying industries.

The gateway initiative was introduced at a 'National Mineral Industry Guidelines Workshop' in October 2001, attended by Australian state mining regulators and personnel from the Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC), University of Queensland.

Rather than having to search the individual websites of groups such as state regulatory authorities for risk management information, MIRMGate provides a single doorway to all this information. It is like an organised library of on-line resources that draws from national and international sources.

Its centralised database uses information technology known as metadata for more effective retrieval of websites. The power of the system lies in its ability to use multiple pathways to find resources. ■■

# Chrysotile asbestos banned

The use of chrysotile (white) asbestos has been banned in New South Wales and all other Australian states and territories since on December 31, 2003 in line with a National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) prohibition.

The ban took effect simultaneously under regulations gazetted in the occupational health and safety jurisdictions of each state and territory. The Commonwealth also banned the import and export of chrysotile asbestos at the same time.

National codes of practice for the safe removal of asbestos and for measuring the amount of airborne asbestos are being revised. There will also be a new code of practice providing advice on managing and controlling asbestos-containing materials in workplaces.

For more information, visit the NOHSC web site at [www.nohsc.gov.au](http://www.nohsc.gov.au) or contact Michael Mulrine, Senior Communication Officer, NOHSC, on (02) 6279 1037, email: [michael.mulrine@nohsc.gov.au](mailto:michael.mulrine@nohsc.gov.au) ■■

## COMING EVENTS

- May 19, 2004: 14th Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar - Penrith
- July 25 - 27, 2004: Annual NSW Mining Industry Occupational Health and Safety Conference, Peppers Resort, Blue Mountains
- November 10-11, 2004: 14th Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar, Penrith
- For further information or to book for these events, contact Steve Stewart, NSW Department of Mineral Resources on (02) 9901 8584 ■■

## White Cliffs Safety Courses

Free Opal Mining Safety Awareness and Mine Operator Courses will be run at White Cliffs in June. A big attendance is expected following last year's roll up of 140 people. These will be the last free courses to be run at White Cliffs. As with Lightning Ridge, a fee of approximately \$110 will be payable for all future courses. It is planned that by the middle of 2005, a Safety Awareness Certificate will be required to register or re-register any claim on the White Cliffs field. Each working claim will also need to have at least one person with a Mine Operator Course Certificate. For further information, please phone Greg Welsh, Regional Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, on (08) 8088 9328. These courses are also run regularly at Lightning Ridge where anybody interested in attending the Opal Mining Safety Awareness Course should phone Debbie Knee on (02) 6829 0678 and for the Mine Operator Courses Janet Town on 02 6829 0159.

## PROSECUTIONS

### Drilling company found guilty over workplace death

The Industrial Relations Commission of NSW has convicted Akula Pty Limited (formerly RaiseBore Australia Pty Ltd) over the 2000 death of a project manager. In 1999 and 2000, Akula was contracted by Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd to drill ventilation shafts at the Ridgeway Goldmine near Orange. Akula, in turn, contracted with Specialised Mining Services Pty Ltd to provide the services of the project manager who was fatally injured on May 27, 2000. The Commission found Akula failed to ensure

- those persons working on the site were not exposed to rocks or material falling from a height of 200 metres upon them
- adequate protection cover was provided
- persons were not working in an area where it knew or should have known that because of poor ground quality that there was a susceptibility for rocks or material to fall
- adequate radio communications were available in case of emergency

- adequate emergency procedures were developed and put in place
- a specific risk assessment was carried out prior to the work being undertaken

The Commission will hear submissions on penalty on November 22, 2004.

### Waratah Engineering convicted

On March 19, the Industrial Relations Commission found Waratah Engineering guilty of breaching s15 and s16 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1983. The company had been charged following a fatality at Cooranbong Colliery on July 1, 1999 that occurred during servicing of a continuous mining machine. Waratah Engineering was ordered to pay penalties totalling \$64,800, reduced from \$90,000 in consideration of an early plea of guilty and mitigating circumstances. This decision has been appealed by the Government. A prosecution of Powercoal in 2003 over the same incident resulted in a penalty of \$65,000, increased to \$155,000 on appeal on November 28, 2003. ■■

# AMNESTY

WorkCover NSW has held an amnesty for workers who hold Certificates of Competency without completing a proper knowledge or practical assessment. This amnesty concerned only WorkCover accreditations, such as forklift driver and scaffolder, and not accreditations overseen by the Department of Mineral Resources.

The amnesty period ran until the end of April. It had been declared due to concerns that people may have been posing a risk to themselves and workmates by operating industrial machinery if they were not properly assessed. Employers must ensure that they meet their obligation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 to only allow competent operators to operate industrial machinery.

In September 2003, WorkCover established an Audit Management Unit to audit WorkCover approved service providers, such as accredited assessors. Since then 31 accredited assessors and 47 certificate holders have been cancelled or suspended.

To be eligible for the amnesty, workers had to hand in Certificates of Competency to WorkCover and provide information about the improper assessment. Certificate holders who were improperly assessed and who did not apply for the amnesty may be prosecuted and face heavy fines and prison.

Certificate holders had to apply for the amnesty by contacting WorkCover on 1800 500 827 (toll free). Those who have had a certificate cancelled by WorkCover or who have received notification of a proposed cancellation were not eligible for the amnesty. ■■

## Safety Management Plan workshops for small mines



During 2004, The Institute of Quarrying Australia (IQA) will run a series of workshops designed to assist small mine operators meet legislative obligations by establishing and working to mine safety management plans.

These workshops will be run in conjunction with the NSW Department of Mineral Resources as a continuation of the Department's successful Small Mines Campaign. They will include hands-on exercises that enable people from small mines, quarries and other extractive industries to complete their Mine Safety Management Plans.

All who attend will receive a copy of the two-part Small Mines Safety Management Kit, which will help them find and organise the required resources. It contains do-it-yourself templates and it can be modified to meet the needs of small and medium-sized mines.

Production managers, mine workers, supervisors, maintenance people and plant operators, should attend the workshops from mines that have not yet established Mine Safety Management Plans. The \$250 fee per person will cover venue hire, resource material and catering. The IQA can arrange workshops at specific locations where there is sufficient demand.

To register your interest, or get information on dates and venues, contact Darrel Adam, Education Officer, The Institute of Quarrying Australia, PO Box 164, Keiraville, NSW, 2500, phone: 02 4229 8833, fax: 02 4229 3661, email: [education@quarry.com.au](mailto:education@quarry.com.au) ■■

# SAFETY ALERTS

SA04-01 has been issued following a February 2004 incident in which one person died and another was injured at a mine in Queensland. The two were changing wheels on a 170 tonne truck when a split rim became dislodged and caused the tyre to move uncontrollably. It struck one person who sustained a broken jaw.

The second person, who was pinned under the tyre assembly, suffered fatal injuries. A similar incident at a NSW mine in 2001 resulted in a tyre fitter suffering head and face injuries together with broken arms and a broken knee.

Following this incident, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources issued Safety Alert number SA-01-15, which recommended:

- Carry out audit to identify all vehicles on site which have split rim wheel assemblies
- Complete risk review on hazards associated with split rims
- Ensure split rim assembly designs have sufficient barriers to prevent anyone accidentally removing split rim assembly bolts
- Review safe work procedures to ensure they address all risks associated with vehicles that have split rim assemblies
- Ensure only people who have



been trained and assessed as competent are allowed to take wheels off vehicles and fit or repair tyres

#### SA 04 02: FIRE TRAPS TRUCK DRIVER

A truck driver was trapped when flames surrounded the cabin of a 100 tonne truck. He was not seriously injured. The fire occurred when the hydraulic hose to the tray lift cylinder burst and sprayed oil over the turbo and the cabin. The fire was put out by other truck drivers with hand held extinguishers. The safety alert recommended that effective engineering barriers be identified through risk analysis and that all equipment be brought into compliance with MDG15.

blockage in the hose. The burst hose propelled the sample collection cyclone towards the driller who was operating the drill rig. The cyclone struck the driller with force. The driller sustained severe bruising to his body and back and could have been seriously injured or killed. The hose had a 90-degree bend in it just before it entered the cyclone inlet. The hose burst in this area resulting in an 80-cm tear in the hose. Generally these areas on hoses have high wear rates. The cyclone was tied to the drill rig by a piece of rope that broke during the incident. After the incident, a locking pin was installed to prevent the cyclone from moving in a similar circumstance. Risk assessments should be conducted to develop risk management strategies for all drilling activities that are conducted with the use of high-pressure air or water. Risk assessments should consider controls to prevent high-pressure hoses and associated equipment moving in an uncontrolled manner following a failure in a high-pressure hose or pipe.

Find full safety alerts at: <http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/safalert.htm>

You can get safety alerts, notices of seminars and other events, and copies of Mine Safety Update mailed to you by filling in the coupon on the back cover of this magazine. ■■■



#### SA 04 03 DUMP TRUCK TRAYS HIT OVERHEAD STRUCTURES

There have been two incidents in which dump trucks have been driven with raised trays and the trays have hit overhead structures. One hit a public road overpass and the other an overhead conveyor. Neither driver was injured but there was potential for serious injury or fatality.

#### SA 04 04 BURST HOSE ON DRILL RIG

A high-pressure air hose burst on a surface exploration drill rig while the driller was attempting to clear a

# Department moving to Maitland

Preparation for the move of the NSW Department of Mineral Resources from St Leonards in Sydney to Maitland are well under way with the move expected to begin in November this year. The Department's Mine Safety Technical Services is moving from Lidcombe to Thornton, on the outskirts of Maitland. Thornton fit out began in April. Intensive business continuity planning has been underway for two years to ensure the Department's high level of service to the mining industry continues seamlessly through the move. The Mine Safety Division will not be greatly affected by the move because its Regional Managers, Inspectors, Mine Safety Officers and the majority of support staff are already located in regional offices. Safety conferences and seminars will continue to be run at venues such as Penrith, Orange, Newcastle. The Department's client services desk, bookshop and library will all move to Maitland but most publications are already being ordered by email on [orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au](mailto:orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au) or over the internet on the interactive order form at <http://minerals.nsw.gov.au/mapspubs/order.pdf>. The mining industry will be advised of the Maitland and Thornton phone numbers when they are available. ■■

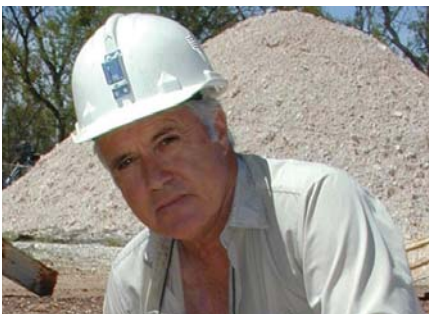


*The NSW Department of Mineral Resources office, High Street Maitland*



*Mine Safety Technical Services in Hartley St Thornton, on the outskirts of Maitland*

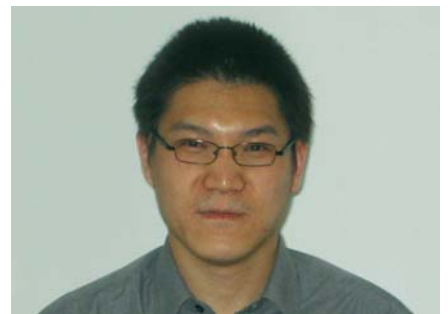
## NEW FACES



Jim McMahon has been appointed Mine Safety Officer at Lightning Ridge. He has spent 33 years in the opal industry and Jim has spent time developing safety programs and courses as well as instructing in the Opal Mining Safety Awareness and Mine Operator courses.



Tony Smith has joined the Investigation Unit as Senior Investigator (Coal) from the Coal Compensation Board. He will provide coal mining expertise for investigations and participate in Coronial inquests and prosecutions.



Johnny Wong has been appointed Subsidence Officer/Engineer based at the Gateshead office of the NSW Department Resources. He has a degree in Civil Engineering (IEAust member) and a Master in Engineering Science, both from the University of Newcastle. ■■

# NSW Department of Mineral Resources Offices

## HEAD OFFICE

Minerals and Energy House  
29-57 Christie Street, St Leonards NSW 2065  
(PO Box 536 St Leonards NSW 1590)  
DX: 3324  
Phone: (02) 9901 8888  
Fax: (02) 9901 8777  
TTY: (02) 9901 8656

## ARMIDALE

Suite 4, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350  
(PO Box 65 Armidale NSW 2350)  
Phone: (02) 6776 0300  
Fax: (02) 6776 0399

## BROKEN HILL

Level 2, 32 Sulphide Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880  
(NOTE CHANGED PO BOX NUMBER)  
(PO Box 696 Broken Hill NSW 2880)  
Phone: (08) 8088 9300  
Fax: (08) 8087 8005

## COBAR

62-64 Marshall Street, Cobar NSW 2835  
(PO Box 157 Cobar NSW 2835)  
Phone: (02) 6836 4392  
Fax: (02) 6836 4395

## GATESHEAD

Lot 1766 Bullsgarden Road, Gateshead NSW 2290  
(PO Box 2245 Gateshead NSW 2290)  
Phone: (02) 4942 2300  
Fax: (02) 4942 2323

## LIDCOMBE

State Hospital Grounds  
Cnr Joseph Street & Weeroona Rd, Lidcombe NSW 2141  
(PO Box 76 Lidcombe NSW 2141)  
Specialist Services & Applied Research Section  
Phone: (02) 9649 5266, Fax: (02) 9646 3224  
Mine Safety & Technical Services  
Phone: (02) 9646 1644, Fax: (02) 9646 3224  
Investigation Unit  
Phone: (02) 9649 8959, Fax: (02) 9649 5631

## LIGHTNING RIDGE

Lot 60 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834  
(PO Box 314 Lightning Ridge NSW 2834)  
Phone: (02) 6829 0678  
Fax: (02) 6829 0825

## LITHGOW

The Hartley Building  
184 Mort Street, Lithgow NSW 2790  
(PO Box 69 Lithgow NSW 2790)  
Phone: (02) 6351 3052  
Fax: (02) 6352 3876

## LONDONDERRY

Core Library  
947-953 Londonderry Road, Londonderry NSW 2753  
Phone: (02) 4777 4316  
Fax: (02) 4777 4397

## ORANGE

185 Anson Street, Orange 2800  
(PO Box 53 Orange NSW 2800)  
Phone: (02) 6392 6333  
Fax: (02) 6392 6363  
After hours - emergency only - (02) 6392 6358

## SINGLETON

1 Civic Avenue, Coal Services Building, Singleton NSW 2330  
(PO Box 51 Singleton NSW 2330)  
DX 7071  
Phone: (02) 6572 1899 (Inspectors)  
Phone: (02) 6572 4200 (Geology)  
Fax: (02) 6572 1201

## WOLLONGONG

State Government Offices  
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500  
(PO Box 674 Wollongong NSW 2520)  
Phone: (02) 4227 1699  
Fax: (02) 4226 3851



## Do the right people in your organisation read Mine Safety Update?

NSW Mine Safety Update and Safety Alerts are only of assistance if read by the widest possible cross-section of people who can influence safety performance in mining. If you want to get Mine Safety Update or Safety Alerts mailed directly to you at home or work, or want them to go to someone else, please fill in the form, fax it to us and we will add the name to the mailing list.

TO: Steve Stewart, Mine Safety Performance Improvement Division, NSW Department of Mineral Resources, fax: (02) 9901 8584

Please send me by mail

MINE SAFETY UPDATE

SAFETY ALERTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mine / Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_