

STATEMENT BY BRUCE HADLEY

I, BRUCE HADLEY, am employed at West Cliff Mine as a Shift Undermanager on Evening Shift.

Events Prior to D/W 13/12/86:

In the company of representatives from Chemfix and A.C.I.R.L., the longwall was inspected at approximately 9.00 p.m. on 12th December 1986. With the use of temperature probes, readings were taken at :

- 1) the maingate end of the stonedust.
- 2) in the area of chock No.86/87.

Reading 1:

The last reading taken on A/S indicated a temperature of approx. 40^oC. The two readings taken on E/S were 27^oC and 24^oC.

The probe was then moved to the area of 86-87 chock. In this area there was a continual stream of vapour coming from the stonedust bags (vapour approx. 1.2m from top of A.F.C.).

Reading 2:

This reading indicated a temperature of 70^oC. The area was monitored for approx. 1 1/2 hours with no increase in temperature, but I stated to the representative from Chemfix I was of the opinion that the haze was increasing from the area of 86/87 chock.

We left approx. 12.00 midnight to return to the surface.

Events for Night Shift - 13/12/86:

At approx. 1.20 a.m., P. Forbes, Longwall deputy, notified me of the longwall fire. He stated they were using fire hoses to fight the fire and he was of the opinion they would be able to bring it under control.

STATEMENT BY BRUCE HADLEY: (Cont'd.)

I notified pit bottom deputy, N. Campbell, and instructed him to take three people with him to assist P. Forbes on the longwall face.

I instructed pit bottom to cancel all overtime and arrange for all labour to be withdrawn from underground except the six men I had allocated to the longwall. The washery was also instructed to isolate No.1 shaft (upcast).

N. Campbell informed me at approx. 2.00 a.m. that as far as he could determine, the fire had been extinguished but there was still some hot spots in the fire area.

In the company of P. Harrington and four other men, we arrived on the longwall face at approx. 2.45 a.m. (approx. 30 minutes lost with dolly car). After inspecting the area, I commenced dismantling the stonedust bags in the area of Nos. 86 - 89 chocks - the site of the fire. On inspection of the stonedust bags during dismantling, there were a number of bags charred but not burnt. When any hot areas were discovered the area was hosed down to prevent any possible re-ignition.

When the first wooden pallet was removed I reported that the inside edge (maingate end) had been burnt, the condition of the timber being such it crumbled when handled.

The worst of the charred stonedust bags was shown to P. Harrington before they were removed to allow me to clear the area down to the A.F.C.

STATEMENT BY BRUCE HADLEY: (Cont'd.)

In general, the conditions found at the fire sight were :-

- 1) Charred stonedust bags.
- 2) Burnt brattice.
- 3) Some burnt pieces of foam.
- 4) Some charred pieces of coal.
- 5) Water drippers from No.88 chock quite warm - cooled down approx. 5.30 a.m.

I was not aware till 7.00 a.m. of P. Forbes reporting that he thought he had seen flames in the hole at the top of the stonedust bags in the maingate end.

This area had been inspected quite thoroughly on Evening Shift, and especially on Dogwatch and I am of the opinion that there was not a problem in this area.

On being relieved from clearing the stonedust from the face I instructed the oncoming team to work towards the tailgate, clearing the stonedust and checking for any hot spots.

This report is to complement the report given to the Surveyor, T.Margrave, at 7.00 a.m. on 13/12/86.

STATEMENT BY BRUCE HADLEY: (Cont'd.)

Q: With respect to the deployment of men to Longwall 7, how many men were deployed to the place and why?

A: Instructions given to me by Paul Harrington, the Undermanager in Charge, were that 4 Area was isolated and that no labour was to work in 4 Area at all, with the exception of the longwall deputy and an offsider, mainly from the safety point of view of two men working together. They were to monitor the conditions on the longwall face during the shift.

Q: What time did you arrive at the site with Chemfix and A.C.I.R.L. representatives?

A: Approximately 9 p.m.

Q: On arrival at the site, did you test for methane in the site area?

A: In the general body, as far as I can do with safety without going on the return side of the polyurethane plug. The general body readings were .2% and .4%.

Q: Did you take any readings in the chocks?

A: Yes - on the maingate side, in the chocks I examined, I found between .2% and .4% of methane.

Q: How many wood pallets were pulled out of the stonedust wall by your rescue team?

A: We pulled one pallet out from the mid wall level. All stonedust was removed from the pallet down to floor level and the pallet was ready to be brought out by the relieving team.

STATEMENT BY BRUCE HADLEY: (Cont'd.)

Q: What advice did you receive from Paul Harrington, the Undermanager in Charge, who had been on the site on Afternoon Shift, as to the condition of the polyurethane product and the area around it?

A: Paul told me the conditions on Afternoon Shift with the vapour given off during Afternoon Shift was quite heavy, and he was unable to clearly see the tailgate end of the longwall, but the vapour was slowing up which indicated that the area was cooling down, and we were to monitor the area until conditions were normal, then this would allow us, after a period of 24 hours, to recommence pumping.

Q: When Chemfix representatives had taken temperature results, did they offer advice when pumping could recommence?

A: In conversation with the Chemfix representatives, we came to the conclusion that we could start pumping after a 32 hour period, i.e. 8 hours cooling down and 24 hours for a further cooling down period, which then allow the pump cycle to start.

Q: Why were the Chemfix men of this opinion?

A: Because of the temperature which was dropping on the maingate end, (e.g. it had gone from 40°C on Afternoon Shift down to 27°C and 24°C on Swing Shift), and the temperature in the area of 86/87 chock where the probe had been placed. He was of the opinion that this would continually drop, and the fact that the vapour was abating.

B Hadley

BRUCE HADLEY

15/12/86

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