Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union Mining and Energy Division

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# INSPECTION REPORT

NAME OF MINE : G.E.A.P Underground

ADDRESS : P.O Box 531

Moranbah 4744

MANAGER : Frank Fulham

INSPECTION DATE: Wednesday, 3rd May 2000

Today in the company of Frank Fulham an inspection of the G.E.A.P underground mine was undertaken.

Areas inspected were the belt road from the surface to 23 CIT and "A" HDG from 23 C/T to 31 C/T face area.

## Results of Inspection

The belt itself was in a good condition with no sign of spillage or fines build up at rollers. The walkway was free of obstruction.

The faulted area at 18-19 C/T appears to have been adequately secured.

A ratio feeder had been set up at 23 C/T to sideload material from the 'A' HDG fall.

This fall extends roughly from 23—25 CIT, and reaches heights of over 10 meters above the normal roof horizon in areas. There are quite pronounced joint planes and fault structures running virtually parallel to the direction of mains driveage, no doubt being the sources of this large failure.

Remedial bolting was taking place out of a man basket mounted on an Eimco at time of inspection, the bolting and meshing done thus far is of a very high standard. The mine was lucky, given the scope of this fall, that the ventilation flow down this sole intake roadway was only partially restricted as all areas inbye would be adversely affected.

It is planned to leave fallen roof material in-situ level with the top of the coal seam so as to try and confine the ribs.

Mining was again taking place in a 'A' HDG. Roof conditions were poor limiting the amount being cut out too less than a meter at a time. Roof support being installed using a single gopher bolter.

Discussions with the miner operator about what isolation procedures are in place while men are working in front of the miner, indicated that no formal procedure is in place, informally the miner is placed into the flit mode.

All other standing faces appeared well supported.

## Discussions

1. Continuous miner isolation procedure

Mr Fulham agreed to draw up and introduce an isolation procedure, whilst work is being conducted in front of and in the vicinity of the heads of the miner.

2. Rib fall injury to continuous miner operator

Mr Fulham has forwarded the accident investigation. It seems that adequate steps have been put into place to lower operator exposure providing adequate properly installed rib support is in place.

The presence of this cleat induced rib instability is indicative of what appears to be disregard for the effect of cleat direction, and also the jointing and fault directions on mining conditions during the planning stages of this mine.

I fail to understand why the direction of development was not offset to minimise these geological effects. My understanding of the initial plans for possible longwall extraction in this area was for the wall to be extracted up dip towards the pit top.

The current situation will probably ensure good face conditions on the longwall itself but will almost certainly mean poor gateroad stability, if the state of 'A' HDG fall is any guide.

Indeed it would also indicate that any plans to retreat a longwall up the 'A' HDG side of the mine in areas affected by faulting would be fraught with danger if not impossible.

S. Vaccaneo

District Union Inspector