Attachments

Attachment 1 - chief inspector's letter to underground coal mine site senior executives



28 July 2022

Dear Underground Site Senior Executive

Re: Implementation of Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry Industry Recommendations

It has now been 14 months since the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry published its second and final report on the serious accident that occurred at Grosvenor mine on 6 May 2020, which resulted in serious injuries to five coal mine workers, and high potential incidents that occurred at Grosvenor mine and other underground coal mines, between 1 July 2019 and 5 May 2020, involving exceedances of methane. The board directed 30 recommendations to the coal mining industry, three of which were directed specifically at the Grosvenor mine.

My recent engagement with some SSEs at underground coal mines has raised a concern that none that I have spoken with have a clear implementation plan for recommendations made to industry. While some SSEs have referred to work being done at a corporate level, and external agency reviews of current activities against the board's recommendations, none has produced an implementation plan, clearly indicating which recommendations will be adopted at their mine, allocated resources, individuals responsible for tasks and the due date for implementation.

Reflecting on the recommendations made from inquiries into the Moura No2 and No4 mining disasters – which have seen the industry take approximately 26 years to fully implement – we collectively need to ensure that the Bol recommendations are implemented in a timely manner.

It is incumbent on us all to ensure that the lessons from the gas exceedances in the industry and the explosion at Grosvenor on 6th May 2020 are not forgotten and the Bol recommendations are implemented as relevant to your operation.

Recently some SSEs requested I share the implementation tracker RSHQ is using for recommendations made to RSHQ, so SSEs could use a similar format. I have attached the implementation tracker containing relevant industry recommendations for your use or to adapt to your own format. I will be monitoring industry's efforts to implement BoI recommendations and so will seek regular updates on your site's progress. To this end, I request that you provide me with your mine's implementation tracker/plan, setting out:

- recommendations you are implementing,
- the actions you are taking to implement them,
- the timeframe for full implementation, and
- status on implementation progress for each recommendation.

I request that these plans are submitted to my office by the end of October 2022.

Regards

Peter Newman

Chief Inspector of Mines

Att: Bol Industry Recommendations Implementation Tracker