

Resources Safety & Health Queensland Mackay Office

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Mine Name	Mine ID	Operator	Activity Type	Activity Date
Moranbah North	MI00750	Anglo Coal	Inspection	10/03/2021
(Moranbah North				
Management) Pty Ltd				

Mine Record Entry

This report forms part of the Mine Record under s68 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999. It must be placed in the Mine Record and displayed in 1 or more conspicuous positions at the mine in a way likely to come to the attention of workers at the mine.

Note that inspection or audit activities conducted by the Mines Inspectorate are based upon sample techniques. It remains the primary responsibility of Mine Personnel to identify hazards, and risks associated with Operations and ensure those risks are at an acceptable level.

Executive Summary

Mine Record Entry Detail

Today 10 March 2021, I Paul Brown Inspector of Mines attended Moranbah North Mine for the purpose of a site surface inspection of Inertisation capability and drilling activities. These activities are related to the ongoing management of Longwall 605 goaf and the proposed mine re-entry systems still under development.

Participating in todays site surface inspection were:

Paul Brown (Inspector of Mines)

s.73 Irrelevant infd (Operations Manager)

s.73 Irrelevant info (Seam Gas Manager)

SSHR was notified by the UMM of my presence on site however was on the re-entry risk assessment.

The inspection covered the main surface infrastructure/plant at Moranbah North Mine which are situated above the Longwall 605 goaf and in close proximity to the current face line workings.

Inspection comments

Mr s.73 Irrele provided me with a copy of the MNM-LW605 Gas Monitoring plan, current as at close of business 9/03/2021, the date was acknowledged and changes since the updates made to this plan were discussed. The key areas of the inspection were:

SO1112 borehole, currently not injecting foam.

SO1113 borehole, currently not injecting foam.

SO1115 Integrity testing of tube bundle at time of inspection.

SO1107, drill rig is at 211m as at previous shift today (nightshift)

SO1108, SO1114, SO869 & SO868 boreholes are being monitored by the mobile Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS) lab and live fed information back to Moranbah North Control room. We viewed the SIMTARS lab and spoke with the dayshift technician about his what occurs with the data, how it is shared and the reports generated daily for the V.O and Consultants. The SIMTARS Lab is located between Boreholes SO864 and SO862, all tube bundle tubes have been shrouded in poly pipe, either flexible or ridged as required.

SO1115 is planned to be also monitored by the SIMTARS lab as soon as integrity testing complete possibly today.

SO867, no longer used for nitrogen injection however has been set up with a blow skid.

SO866, Tomlinson Boiler #3, operating at time of inspection.

SO865, Tomlinson Boiler #2, operating at time of inspection

SO861, Floxal operating at time of inspection.

SO860, Floxal operating at time of inspection.

I took a total of 9 photos of the equipment described above, the purpose was in case visual aids were required for reporting back to the senior leadership in the Inspectorate.

There were a number of other Inertisation units operating across the site as well as blow skids set up that were not included in today's inspection.

Site Meetings

We returned to the Moranbah North muster area to attend the Start of Tour address facilitated by the SSE, during the course of this presentation I participated in the discussion with the crews.

I provided an explanation how and why the Directive was given as well as the function of a Mines Inspector. Further I explained that dealing with the Directive to determine an acceptable level of risk is present is priority, in parallel the site have also engaged a number of both internal and external technical experts to analyse what has occurred on the 20/02/21 and what the data indicates both before and after this event. To date I am yet to received copies of these reports, the expectation is they will support the SSEs pending response to the Directive.

I later participated with Mr s.73 Irrele in a meeting with just the Longwall 605 crew discussing the ongoing matters that have occurred since the incident 20/02/21.

The Longwall crew raised a number of concerns which require review by the management team with regards how the initial response was managed. Understandably there is a high level of concern held by Coal Mine Workers about what has occurred as well as understanding the mechanism that produced the overpressure. A significant concern of the coal mine workers is also about having all available evidence accessible to the risk assessment team, currently two of the reports are withheld through legal privilege and a short summary of this information has only so far been provided to the risk assessment team. The discussion extended over an hour and was constructive as well as helpful for myself as the Lead Investigator.

Close out meeting

I held a close out meeting with:

s.73 Irrelevant infor (SSE)
s.73 Irrelevant infor (Operations Manager)

While I did provided a brief summary of the inspection, the main discussion centred on the level of anxiety held within the workforce about understanding what has occurred, if the mine is safe to re-enter and how to prevent reoccurrence.

I expressed my concern about the risk assessment team not having access to all information available (Technical Expert reports). Access to evidence is a basic fundamental for assessing risk. This matter must be resolved so that it doesn't erode the re-entry risk assessment. The risk assessment team is recommended to consider the basic rules of evidence when referencing material to support their assessment, is the material or document Valid, Sufficient, Authentic and Current?

For the moment the mine is still working through a process to be able to form the response to the Directive, I have informed the SSE I make myself available to return to the site at any time to assist by providing advice (as described in section 128 of the Act).

Paul Brown Lead Investigator Inspector of Mines