SAFETY ALERT

Underground coal mine roof strata monitoring

INCIDENT

A roof fall occurred recently on a main travel roadway at an underground coal mine.
There were no injuries.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The mine was working normally when underground services were disrupted. Subsequent investigation discovered a roof fall. The mine was evacuated and all persons accounted for.

INVESTIGATION

The relevant Inspector of Coal Mines attended the site and conducted inquiries relating to this event. Deficiencies were found with the management of the strata monitoring. Through subsequent review of strata monitoring it was discovered that up to 30% of the strata monitoring devices (SMD) were not operable for various reasons.

A neighbouring mine reported up to 40% of similar devices not operable. People allocated to using these devices were unable to determine whether the strata monitoring devices were in good operating condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of Coal Mines should review their risk and controls for strata management with particular emphasis on (but not limited to):-
- The type of SMD used
- The suitability of the SMD for the required areas of operation
- The process of recording information relevant to the SMD
- Training of underground people in the installation, use and interpretation of SMDs

ABN 72 189 919072-002
www.resources.nsw.gov.au/safety

Mine Safety Report No: SA13-01-01
File No:12/21
Comet ID: 317615863001
Prepared by: David Gordon
Phone: 02 4222 8315
Date Created: 11 February 2013

- Training of underground people in determining if a SMD is faulty
- TARPs relating to strata management and SMDs
- Repair and replacement management of SMDs

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations.

Signed

**Rob Regan
DIRECTOR
MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

View more safety alerts at www.resources.nsw.gov.au/safety-alerts   If you would like to receive safety alerts by email, enter your contact details at www.resources.nsw.gov.au/safety/signup