

ANZMEC	CONFERENCE OF CHIEF INSPECTORS OF MINES (CCIM) Adelaide 27 -29 October 1999
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Communiqué

Chief Inspectors of Mines from all States, Northern Territory, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea met in South Australia from 27-29 October 1999 for the annual Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines (CCIM). Mr Steve Davies, Acting Chief Inspector – Coal Mines, New Zealand (in place of Mr George Munro, Chief Inspector of Mines, Quarries & Tunnels, NZ) chaired the conference, which was organised by the Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA).

Pre-conference

Conference sessions in Adelaide were preceded by visits to the Olympic Dam copper-uranium-gold mine, Andamooka opal field, Leigh Creek coal mine, Blinman historic copper mine site, Peterborough gold battery and the Mintaro slate quarry. These visits provided an opportunity for the Chief Inspectors to see some of South Australia's diverse mining operations and heritage, and discuss a broad range of topics with mine operators and PIRSA staff covering: — operational performance; developments in mining/processing technology; titles administration; preservation of historic mining sites; and environmental management.

Presentations on mining and quarrying OH&S in South Australia and electronic initiation of explosives were given by senior representatives from QuarrySAfe and ORICA during conference sessions. Mr Warwick Newton, PIRSA's Manager Mineral Assessments, reviewed the results of South Australia's exploration initiative completed during the mid-1990s, discussed current feasibility studies for gold, uranium and iron ore projects, and outlined elements of the next phase of exploration, which involves collection of new data from aeromagnetic, radiometric, gravity and remote sensing surveys, bedrock drilling and on ground surveys.

Strategic Framework for Mine Safety

The CCIM reviewed progress with consultation in all States and the Northern Territory being undertaken to develop a national strategic framework for governments' contribution to a significant improvement in the safety and health performance of the mining industry. The consultative process is being coordinated by the Chief Inspectors of Mines on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council's Mine Safety Taskforce (MST). A document comprising two papers prepared by the MST and entitled "*Realising a Safe and Healthy Mining Industry – Developing a Strategic Framework for Governments' Contribution*" has been distributed as basis for consultation.

The first paper, *“Objectives and Process”*, provides an introduction to the rationale for the initiative, the consultative process to be followed and a set of questions which indicate that the scope of the consultation is unlimited. The second paper, *“Points for Discussion”*, provides a basis for discussion of existing issues covering such matters as a common approach to legislation and its administration, safety management systems and plans, certification, approvals, workplace consultation, national standards, enforcement, national and regional consultation, safety awareness training/education/advice, and performance measurement.

The Chief Inspectors are seeking preliminary comments on the papers by mid-December 1999 in order to prepare a timely consolidated response for ANMZEC’s Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) in 2000.

CCIM vision and strategic directions

At the request of SCO, the Chief Inspectors reviewed their draft vision statement and key result areas as developed at the 1998 CCIM.

Draft National Guidelines

The preparation of draft National Guidelines on “Safety Management Systems” and “Remote Control of Underground Mining Equipment” was not proceeded with in 1999. During the year, the need for these documents was reviewed out of session and it was decided not to proceed with their development on the following basis.

The existing AS/NZS 4804 (1997) on Occupational Health and Management Systems provides guidance on a broad framework. This may be referenced by jurisdictions as a basis for mines to develop site specific systems. The issue will also be considered in the MST consultative process.

Detailed guidelines exist for remote controlled equipment operation in coal mines, and a specific guideline for remote control loaders in metal mines is nearing completion. This may reference procedures, currently being developed, for autonomous operation of loaders.

It was resolved that it would be more appropriate to provide guidance notes on the key principles in due course and to make these available on the CCIM’s website.

Tasks/projects 1999

1. Mine Safety Taskforce activities.
2. Develop the CCIM website graphics and include hyperlinks to new information/documents available in the jurisdictions
3. Comment on NSW draft discussion paper entitled “Maintenance of competencies for statutory positions”

Other matters

Other matters dealt with by the CCIM included:

- inherent risks and safety issues resulting from fatigue with 12-hour shift rosters;
- Queensland's scenario testing of emergency equipment and response procedures at one coal mine each year, and increasing interest in installation of compressed air breathing apparatus underground;
- safety audits and protocols;
- investigations of incidents and accidents; and
- competencies of mine officials, assessment and mutual recognition issues.

W J McKay

for

Mr Steve Davies

Chair CCIM

A/g Chief Inspector of Coal Mines

New Zealand

8 November, 1999



Chief Inspectors of Mines, Adelaide, 1999

Standing (left to right): T Gosling (NT), G McLaughlan (Vic), G Terry (NSW), Rob Regan (NSW), Paul Healey (NSW), F Sears (Tas), B Lyne (Qld), J Mitas (Vic).

Seated (left to right): W McKay (Com), S Davies (NZ), R Mathews (SA), P Morris (PNG), J Torlach (WA).