

ANZMEC	CONFERENCE OF CHIEF INSPECTORS OF MINES (CCIM)
	Queenstown, New Zealand 15 – 20 October 2000

Communiqué

Chief Inspectors of Mines from all States (with the exception of Queensland), Northern Territory, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea met in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 17-20 October 2000 for the annual Conference of Chief Inspectors of Mines (CCIM). Mr. Graeme McLaughlan, Chief Mining Inspector – Minerals and Petroleum (Vic.), chaired the conference, which was organised by New Zealand's Department of Labour. During the course of the conference, the Chief Inspectors had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Margaret Wilson, Minister for Labour. This provided an informal opportunity to learn more about the New Zealand Government's progress towards developing a legislative framework covering occupational safety and health.

Pre-conference

Conference sessions were preceded by visits to the Macraes gold mine, Manapouri underground hydro electric power station, and the second Manapouri tailrace tunnel being bored from Deep Cove. This provided an opportunity to see some of the latest technology and heavy engineering equipment being used in the processing of highly refractory gold ores and large diameter (10m) long-tunnel boring.

Once again, the Chief Inspectors were able to have open and frank discussions with senior management and operating personnel on wide ranging matters affecting the economic, environmental and safety performance of open cut and underground operations in a particular jurisdiction. The Chief Inspectors were appreciative of the time and effort put in by all involved, and thank Paul Angus (GRD Macraes Mining), Jim Miller (Fulton Hogan) and Dave Bock (Fletchers Dillingham Ilbau) for excellent presentations and the opportunity to visit their company operations.

Strategic Framework for Mine Safety

The CCIM completed an initial review of the draft discussion document entitled "*Realising a Safe and Healthy Mining Industry – the contribution of government*", which has been produced by the Mine Safety Taskforce (MST). The document sets out a national approach to the contribution of governments to the achievement by industry of a safe and healthy mining industry. The need for such a framework has been identified by ANZMEC, and is intended to support efficient, effective and equitable action by government.

Over the next six months, the CCIM will be working with the MST to complete a process of stakeholder consultation and finalise the document for submitting to ANZMEC's Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) in June 2001.

CCIM website

Development of the CCIM's website was completed in early 2000. It can be accessed through the ANZMEC website www.disr.gov.au/resources/anzmec/. The site is a key communication medium for the CCIM, and provides links to all jurisdictional mineral/mining agencies, and other sites that are concerned with national occupation safety and health in the minerals industry.

CCIM's mission

A revised mission statement for the CCIM, reflecting its involvement/consultation with industry, was agreed by the conference and will be posted on the website.

Tasks/projects 2000/01

In accordance with the SCO's endorsement (6 July 2000) of the CCIM's proposed work program, the following tasks/projects are scheduled in 2000/01:

- completing national framework commitments for the MST;
- updating documentation of institutional arrangements and legislative developments within each jurisdiction;
- commenting on New South Wales' draft "Specification for guidelines" and "Guideline for fitness for work";
- assisting Queensland with scoping the development of a generic guideline(s) for safe shaft sinking;
- assessing market penetration of the *Safe Mining Manual* and determining the publisher's interest in selling the manual in electronic form;
- reporting to the SCO;
- bench marking mine inspectorate services across jurisdictions; and
- revising the draft discussion paper dealing with "Maintenance of competencies for statutory positions".

W J McKay

for

Mr. Graeme McLaughlan

Chair 2000 CCIM

Chief Mining Inspector — Minerals & Petroleum

Victoria

November 2000