



Mining Accident News No.1022

24 July to 6 August 2010

In this issue:

Missing worker found dead following Siberian coal mine incident.....	1
7 Trapped in Flooded Colliery in SW China.....	1
Tas: \$50m bill for Savage River mine rockfal	2
Quote of the week	2
USA: Worker killed in accident at W.Va. coal mine	2
This week in mining accident history	3
WA: Family care if miners die on the job.....	5
Mozambique mine collapse kills seven	6
24 remain trapped in flooded coal mine in NE China	6
USA: Methane at issue in mine blast probe.....	7
China: Death Toll from Man's Drunken Rampage Rises to 11	9
9 dead, 7 trapped in central China coal mine ..	10
USA: Methane Monitors Weren't Disabled, Massey Says.....	10
10 confirmed dead in flooded manganese mines in central China	10
WA: Worker killed after mine shaft fall.....	11
WA: Worker's mine death investigated.....	11
Mining dictionary	11

Saturday 24 July 2010

Missing worker found dead following Siberian coal mine incident

Extract from RIA Novosti

After hours of searching, rescuers recovered on Saturday the body of a miner who had been trapped underground following a methane ignition at a coal mine in Russia's Western

Siberia, a spokeswoman for the local emergency services said.

The incident occurred at the Krasnogorskaya mine in the Kemerovo region's town of Prokopyevsk at about 02:00am Moscow time (22:00 GMT, Friday). Sixty-four workers were in the mine when the explosion took place.

"Rescuers discovered the miner's body under the debris caused by a methane ignition," the spokeswoman said.

The dead miner was the only one who had been missing for more than four hours following the incident.

Earlier, the spokeswoman said rescuers had established contact with all miners trapped underground, including the missing one.

According to the latest emergency services' reports, two miners injured by the explosion were taken to hospital.

Monday 26 July 2010

7 Trapped in Flooded Colliery in SW China

Extract from CRIENGLISH.COM

Seven miners were trapped after a coal mine was flooded Monday afternoon in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, local authorities said.

Ten people were working in a shaft at the Laolongdong Coal Mine in Changshou District, Chongqing, when the accident occurred around 4 p.m. Three of the miners managed to escape, according to a statement from the district government.

Water flooded the shaft after miners accidentally drilled through to an adjacent mine which had previously flooded, escaped miners said.

Rescue work is underway.

NOTE: Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of Industry & Investment NSW.

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Tuesday 27 July 2010

Tas: \$50m bill for Savage River mine rockfall

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

It has been estimated that a rockfall at Grange Resources' Savage River mine on Tasmania's west coast will cost \$50 million.

Workplace Standards Tasmania has completed a preliminary review of safety at the mine, after about half a million tonnes of rock collapsed into the open-cut pit last month.

Officials visited the mine last week and met Grange Resources' geotechnical engineers.

Chief Mine Inspector Fred Sears says independent consultants are still working on a report into the possible causes, but he has been very pleased with how the company has cooperated.



Last month's rockfall at Grange Resources' Savage River iron ore mine in Tasmania is expected to cost the company \$50 million. (Grange Resources)

"The company is developing plans for how to develop the area in a safe manner, which will leave the wall in a safe condition for the rest of the pit life," he said.

"It's disrupted their production significantly, and to tidy it up and do all this other work is probably going to cost them about \$50 million."

There have been suggestions that the mine's walls may have been close to the limit of what is considered too steep.

Mr Sears says there will not be a definitive answer until the independent consultant's report is received in about a fortnight.

He says heavy rain in the days leading up to the rockfall may have been a factor.

Quote of the week



"Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth."

Charles A. Dana
(USA Journalist & author, 1819-1897)

Thursday 29 July 2010

USA: Worker killed in accident at W.Va. coal mine

Extract from Associated Press

FAIRVIEW, W.Va. — A coal miner has died in a Consol Energy mine in northern West Virginia.

State Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training spokesman Hoy Murphy says the victim apparently was killed by a block of coal that fell from the wall of Loveridge Mine in Marion County. The accident occurred about 11:55 a.m. Thursday.

Murphy says the victim was caught between a machine that installs roof supports and a 13-foot-long chunk of the mine wall.

The victim's name has not been released.

A spokesman for Canonsburg, Pa.-based Consol had no immediate comment.

The death is the 42nd in U.S. coal mines this year, including 29 men who died in an explosion April 5 at Massey Energy Co.'s Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia.

CONSOL Energy issued the following statement – Jessie Adkins, 39, from Belington, W.Va., was fatally injured today around noon while working at CONSOL Energy’s Loveridge Mine, near Fairview, W.Va.

Mr. Adkins, a miner operator, working as a bolter, with seven years of mining experience, three of those at Loveridge Mine, was injured when coal and other materials from a section of the side of the mine entry, called the mine rib, collapsed and pinned him against a nearby continuous mining machine. No other miners were injured.

Continuous mining machines are used in underground coal mining to drive tunnels, known in the industry as entries, into the coal reserve for ventilation, movement of miners, equipment and supplies; transportation of mined coal or for development of longwall mining sections.

Federal, state and company officials are at Loveridge Mine to investigate the accident, and will issue a final report at a later date.

Mr. Adkins was taken to Fairmont General Hospital following the accident, and was pronounced dead at that facility. He leaves behind a wife, Melissa, and two teenage children.

This week in mining accident history

24-28 July 2002

Quecreek Mine

Somerset County, Pennsylvania, USA

Underground coal mine

Holed into flooded old workings

9 rescued

Source: www.quecreeknine.com

On July 24, 2002, eighteen coal miners at the Quecreek Mine in Lincoln Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, owned by Black Wolf Coal Company accidentally dug into the abandoned, poorly documented Saxman Coal / Harrison No.2 Saxman Mine, flooding the room and pillar mine with an estimated 50 million

gallons of water. Both the Saxman Mine and Quecreek Mine are in the Upper Kittanning coal seam. 77 hours of relentless efforts by local volunteer emergency crews, and state and federal officials, saw that all nine men were safely hoisted from more than 200 feet below ground



Quecreek Mine Disaster Timeline

Wednesday July 24 2002

9:00 p.m. Eighteen miners working overnight, 240 feet below ground are in danger after breaking into an adjacent, abandoned mine. Quecreek mine is flooded with approximately 50 to 60 million gallons of water.

9:45 p.m. Nine out of 18 miners make it out of the flooded mine and are able to alert others around them that 9 men are still trapped and feared to be in grave danger.

9:53 p.m. The call to 911 is made.

10:30 p.m. Pennsylvania State Police guard the Quecreek mine site and tell reporters to go to the church for a press conference scheduled for later that night.

Thursday July 25 2002

1:00 a.m. PBS spokesman John Weir announces that 9 miners are in trouble.

3:15 a.m. Bartels Drilling starts work drilling air ways down into the mine to check for the miners.

5:00 a.m. The drill breaks through into a mine shaft. Rescuers realized at this time that the miner’s oxygen levels are low.

5:15 a.m. Rescue workers hear tapping from the area where miners are trapped, signalling that the miners are alive.

6:00 a.m. The air problem is solved by creating an air pocket; this will relieve stress on the miner's breathing problems.

11:30 a.m. Tapping is once again heard again from the mine; the miners are still alive.

2:30 p.m. A drill rig large enough to bore a rescue shaft arrives from a West Virginia mine. Rescuers begin working at a feverish pace to set up the drill.

7:30 p.m. The big drill meant to save the miners is put into operation.

Friday July 26 2002

1:30 a.m. Drill bit gets stuck in rock breaks 105 ft. into the ground.

11:30 a.m. Digging with new equipment begins on another shaft about 75 feet from the initial drilling site.

4:00 p.m. 1,150 pound shaft removed from shaft one.

8:00 p.m. Drilling resumes on first rescue shaft.

Saturday July 27 2002

3:00 p.m. Tunnel reaches depth of 224 feet, less than 20 feet from chamber where miners are trapped.

7:30 p.m. Gov. Mark Schweiker: "We are on the verge."

8:00 p.m. Drilling in first rescue shaft stopped briefly at 227 feet to fix problem with compressed air drill.

10:15 p.m. Drill in first rescue shaft breaks through into mine chamber 240 ft. underground; workers remove equipment used to pump compressed air into the chamber and begin to tap on pipes, listening for response.

10:50 p.m. A line of rescue workers lower a telephone and green light into smaller shaft adjacent to drilling site in hopes the miners can get to the equipment and signal their status.

11:00 p.m. Smiling rescue workers begin to give thumbs-up signs and hugs- a good signal for the waiting world.

11:35 p.m. Gov. Mark Schweiker confirms all nine miners are alive "9 for 9"

Sunday July 28 2002

1:00 a.m. Randy L. Fogle, the crews foreman was first to make it to the surface. He was covered in dirt and was wet from the flooded mine.

1:15 a.m. Blaine Mayhugh, the youngest of all the miners that day, is brought to the surface in the yellow rescue shaft.

1:30 a.m. Tom Foy makes it to the surface and is greeted with smiling faces and applause.

1:40 a.m. John Unger, whose motto is "we go in together- we come out together" makes it to the surface of the mine.

1:55 a.m. John Phillippi, who's family and friends have been praying and anxiously awaiting finally makes it to the surface.

2:10 a.m. Ron Hileman makes it to the surface of the mine.

2:23 a.m. Dennis Hall, who expected his obituary to soon hit papers, makes it to the surface- alive.

2:30 a.m. Robert Pugh, although he came home late that shift from work, makes it to the surface of the mine.

2:45 a.m. Mark Popernack, impressed by the mere 3 day wait underground, makes it to the surface. All nine miners are alive and accounted for.

The unique fact about the Quecreek Mine rescue that occurred in July 2002 was that every trapped miner survived and was rescued: nine of nine was the headline of newspapers across the country and the world. No miner was left behind, as so often happens in mine tragedies all over the United States.

The miners in Quecreek were fortunate to get out with their lives and all did recover fully in due time. However, most mining accidents do not turn out well. Over 20,000 miners have died in the bituminous mines of southwestern Pennsylvania since 1877, which is a lower number of fatalities than in the anthracite region of northeastern Pennsylvania where 31,000 miners died since 1870

Of the nine surviving miners at Quecreek, most decided that their days of mining were over. Thomas Foy's wife said, "My husband said he'll never go into a mine again unless something like this happens again and he has to rescue someone else" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 'All Nine Alive!').

The aftermath

An investigation was completed by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration. The primary cause of the water inundation was the use of an undated and uncertified mine map of the Harrison No. 2 mine that did not show the complete and final mine workings. Using this map led to an inaccurate depiction of the Harrison No. 2 mine workings on the Quecreek No.1 mine map required by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and on the certified mine map submitted to the State of Pennsylvania during the permitting process. The root cause of the accident was the unavailability of a certified final mine map for Harrison No. 2 mine in the State of Pennsylvania's mine map repository.

The MSHA report concluded: "The rescue of the trapped miners was a major success. Fogle's decision and Hall's persistence to immediately notify the miners in 2-Left section was life saving because of the rapid inflow of water. Without that timely warning they would not have been able to escape. Additionally, the 1-Left section crew's decisions to stay together, work as a team, and go to the highest ground were crucial for their survival. The miners who escaped the inrush of water made similarly good decisions. Their knowledge of escape ways and escape procedures aided their escape. The fast actions of company officials in calling for assistance of expert personnel and appropriate equipment, and the rapid response of those contacted played a major role in the success of this rescue."

A memorial park was created at the farm field where the drilling rescue operations occurred. The park on Dormel Farms lies to the north of the Somerset County Historical Society on Route 985.

Governor Mark Schweiker convened an investigation committee in the days after the rescue was completed, paying particular attention to the actions of the Black Wolf Coal Company, which had been previously cited 25 times for violations.

A few books were written about the account. The miners themselves wrote a book about their ordeal.

In 2002, the story was dramatized by ABC in a television movie, *The Pennsylvania Miners' Story*.

In 2004, the owners of Dormel Farms where the rescue took place wrote their memories of the rescue in a book coauthored by Joyann Dwire. *Miracle at Dormel Farms* by Bill and Lori Arnold describes the many miracles surrounding the rescue, many of which were never recorded in any other media.

The Dropkick Murphys song "Buried Alive" on their 2003 album *Blackout* is a tribute to the Quecreek Mine rescue.

Buddy Miller's song "Quecreek" from his 2002 album *Midnight and Lonesome* chronicles the accident and rescue.

Local singer-songwriter John Larimer provides an intimate account of events surrounding the rescue in his song "He Said Yes" which became a local favorite on WMTZ radio, Johnstown, PA.

Singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell recorded a song entitled "Quecreek Flood" on her 2004 album *Hymns for the Exiled*. The song explores the political and personal implications of the mining disaster.

Friday 30 July 2010

WA: Family care if miners die on the job

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

A new scheme has been launched to look after families of workers who have been killed in mines in Western Australia.

The Miners' Promise Initiative is a non-profit-scheme delivering financial and legal support to families, costing members \$4 a week.

Currently, there are no existing support services for families of workers killed or permanently

injured while working in WA's resources industry.



Campaigner Helen Fitzroy says family members will be better taken care of when a miner dies on the job (BHP Billiton: file photo)

Helen Fitzroy, whose husband died in a mining accident almost 20 years ago in Newman, has helped set up the scheme.

"It's been a long time coming," she said.

"I've been campaigning for some sort of increased support for families, particularly in mining and resources sector when there's a fatality or even a serious disabling injury that family members are better taken care of."

Mozambique mine collapse kills seven

Extract from Independent Online

Maputo - A baby girl was among seven people killed when a mine collapsed on them in Mozambique, independent Mozambican media reported on Friday.

The baby, four women, and two men died, and six others were injured while excavating tantalite from the abandoned mine in the central Mozambican province Zambezia on Wednesday morning, Mediafax newsheet reported.

Mining company Recursos de Tantalite Lda managed the mine with South African companies for five years, but did not renew its licence this year.

The names of the South African companies were not given.

According to the report, the local population started to excavate the minerals at the abandoned mine, selling some back to the mining company.

The 18-month-old baby girl was found dead while strapped to her mother's back.

The district administrator visited the site and families of the deceased, giving each family food hampers and financial help with funeral arrangements.

Tantalite is a rare dark mineral used in the manufacture of electronic components.

Saturday 1 August 2010

24 remain trapped in flooded coal mine in NE China

BEIJING — Two dozen workers were trapped in a flooded mine in northeast China on Sunday, the latest accident in the country's notoriously dangerous coal industry.

The State Work Safety Administration has dispatched a team to investigate the Saturday afternoon flood at a mine in Jixi city of Heilongjiang province, said a man at the administration who refused to be identified. No further details were available, he said.

News of the trapped workers came one day after a blast at a workers' dormitory killed at least 17 people in a northern city with a history of deadly mine accidents. The blast left a crater 65 feet (20 meters) across and about 16 feet (5 meters) deep, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The explosion in the early morning hours on Saturday was blamed on explosives that had been illegally hidden in the area, Xinhua reported, citing a senior official with the mine's owner, Yangquan Coal Industry (Group) Co. Ltd. One person has been detained.

Another seven people were seriously injured in the 2 a.m. blast at the Liugou mine in Linfen city in the northern province of Shanxi, Xinhua said.

It was not clear whether the mine was licensed. China has been trying to improve the safety of its mining industry, which is by far the world's deadliest, but an unknown number of illegal mines exist to profit off the country's huge appetite for power.

The website of the Yangquan Coal Industry (Group) Co. Ltd says the company is state-owned. Phone calls to the company rang unanswered Sunday.

The gritty city of Linfen is especially well-known for coal mine accidents. The city had nine major coal mine disasters, with more than 10 deaths each, between 2003 and 2008, the China Labour Bulletin reported last year.

The city's most powerful job, that of party secretary, went unfilled for more than six months in 2008 and 2009 as officials appeared to shy away.

"The most unwanted job in the Chinese Communist Party," said the Hong Kong-based China Labour Bulletin, which tracks labor issues on the mainland, when the post was finally filled with Xie Hai, who remains in the job.

His predecessor was fired after a massive landslide from an illegal mining operation submerged a village under Linfen's oversight and killed at least 277 people in late 2008.

This year, Coal mine disasters in China have killed 351 people through July 18, according to the website of China's work safety administration

USA: Methane at issue in mine blast probe

Extract from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Nearly four months after the deadly explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in southern West Virginia, there is no end in sight for the mostly secret investigations into the blast.

But a handful of publicly disclosed pieces of evidence have shown the path investigators are following to determine how methane gas could

have amassed at such a level to fuel the massive explosion that left 29 dead.

In an interview last week with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Joe Main, the head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, said he believes the completed investigation will make it clear the blast could have been prevented. This view contrasts with recent statements from Massey Energy, the company that owns Upper Big Branch, suggesting the tragedy was the result of a freak accident.

"But until we get all the facts in, it's just not wise for us, and it's just not good investigative practice to talk about things before you've got them figured out," Mr. Main said. "I think the process going forward is just aimed at doing that."

MSHA has opted to interview witnesses in private, Mr. Main said, to protect the integrity of a simultaneous criminal investigation by the Department of Justice and protect the confidentiality of whistleblowers. Had MSHA decided to conduct interviews publicly, the agency would have had the power to subpoena witnesses. Mr. Main would not say how many witnesses have declined to speak to his investigators.

The secrecy has frustrated family members of the victims, who meet with Mr. Main and other MSHA officials regularly for updates on the probe.

"It's usually hogwash," said Clay Mullins, brother of Rex Mullins. "I learn more from reading the newspapers."

"It's frustrating that we can't tell them what they want," Mr. Main said. "The one thing that I do not like to do and will not do is, 'Oh, we found this piece of evidence, that may mean one of 15 things.' Because it's harmful to them."

But during a wide-ranging interview in his office across the Potomac River from Washington, Mr. Main did confirm several threads that his investigators are exploring as they work to pull

together the causes of America's worst mine disaster in four decades.

Ventilation questions

One person directly involved in the investigation has made it clear that investigators are zeroing in on the mine's ventilation -- the system of walls, curtains and fans used to move fresh air through the working areas, providing oxygen and carrying out dangerous dust and gases.

Because methane is chief among the potential culprits in the initial blast, teams are exploring how effectively Massey ventilated the mine. At the same time, the company has mounted an aggressive public relations campaign arguing that MSHA did not approve a ventilation plan that would have assured maximum airflow in the work area.

Two significant issues have emerged: whether MSHA or Massey ever acted on a problem with sudden methane "outbursts" that appeared at the mine six years ago, and whether the mine was adequately ventilated by conventional standards.

A set of internal MSHA memos from 2004 outline a problem with "methane outbursts" -- sudden rushes of explosive methane gas from a series of cracks that appeared in the working area of the mine's longwall section.

Ventilation experts at MSHA's Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center in South Park offered recommendations that included an increase in longwall face airflow to "more effectively dilute the methane released from the outburst closer to the source and safely remove it from the face area," as well as diligent methane checks in the work area and a plan to seal fractures after an outburst occurred.

J. Davitt McAteer, the former MSHA secretary who is overseeing an independent investigation of the explosion on behalf of West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, has said remedial steps should have been put and kept in place after the 2004 study.

Yet, a check of MSHA records fails to turn up any set of orders or instructions from the agency to Massey directing specific actions.

Mr. Main, during last week's interview, would not say what, if anything, MSHA did in response to those memos. The memos ultimately came to Mr. Main's attention when someone slipped them under the door to his Arlington office after the Upper Big Branch explosion.

"What I'm trying to say is we're aware of that report that was issued in 2004. What the investigation is trying to determine is what happened after that report was issued all the way up to now," Mr. Main said.

Massey has argued that the explosion might have been unavoidable and has released accounts of a mine recovery team member spotting a crack in the mine floor following the blast. The company also released data showing high levels of methane underground immediately after the blast.

But whether the company adequately addressed the problem of a mine known for high methane output is still a subject of inquiry by the investigating team.

Seven months before Upper Big Branch exploded, MSHA issued two "D" orders -- mandating immediate evacuation of a portion of the mine -- after inspectors discovered air flowing the wrong way across the work face of the longwall section.

"Air flow had reversed in the longwall setup entries and air flow was reversed in neutral air courses. The condition was minewide and the existence of the underlying ventilation conditions were both extensive and obvious," inspectors wrote.

With the airflow reversed -- essentially recirculating polluted air from the mined areas -- the potential for trouble was real enough that inspectors closed the operation until ventilation was restored.

Methane evidence

Massey recently released measurement data showing extremely high levels of methane gas a few hours after the explosion -- which, the company said, implies a sudden burst of gas that would have overwhelmed the safety apparatus.

"To put it in perspective, a methane release of this size would completely fill a 2,000 [square-foot] house with an explosive atmosphere in under 40 seconds, and could fill the volume of a typical mine entry to explosive levels in under 25 seconds," Massey Upper Big Branch investigation team member Christopher Schemel said in a statement.

"While the UBB investigation is still ongoing and it is far too early to determine the exact cause of the April 5 accident, the methane gas data is a very important piece of evidence."

MSHA called that conclusion into question, saying the explosion likely caused a sudden spike in methane levels by pulling the gas in from other parts of the mine.

Still, Mr. Main said the idea of methane suddenly pouring into the longwall area through a crack in the floor is possible.

"There's cracks in the floor that appear commonly through mines, cracks in the floor that, if you know methane, basically the stresses are in place that's as common a phenomenon as you'd find.

"The best I can say is that's one of the possibilities in the investigation."

Massey released the methane data -- which MSHA had given the company weeks earlier -- on July 22, the same day Massey CEO Don Blankenship appeared at the National Press Club in Washington. Mr. Blankenship made only oblique mention of the methane burst in his remarks but in general terms said such unpredictable occurrences are central to mine disasters.

The company later took umbrage at news media reports that suggested Mr. Blankenship was calling mine disasters acts of God, but he unquestionably has a different view than Mr. Main, the former safety chief for the United Mine Workers.

"I think we know enough about mining to predict different outcomes," he said, "and I think whenever the investigation is completed on this we will be looking back no different than we have at events in the past to say this is a preventable event."

Mr. Main noted that Upper Big Branch had more "D" orders in 2009 than any other mine in the country. He also confirmed -- as previously reported by the Post-Gazette -- that MSHA is examining the practice of disabling methane monitors in order to continue mine production. An electrician has told investigators that he was forced to "bridge out" a malfunctioning monitor on a continuous mining machine to keep the machine in operation.

"We would hope that it is not" a widespread practice, Mr. Main said.

"There is without question, with regard to the UBB investigation a lot of attention being paid to that very issue and we would hope that by the time the investigation concludes we'll have a better handle about what was going on there."

Monday 2 August 2010

China: Death Toll from Man's Drunken Rampage Rises to 11

Extract from CRIENGLISH.COM

The death toll due to a man's drunken rampage in a shovel loader at a mine in north China's Hebei Province on Sunday has risen to 11, government authorities said Monday.

Thirty others were injured.

Police have detained a suspect, 38-year-old Li Xianliang.

After he was arrested, Li's blood alcohol reading was 154 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

According to the initial police investigation, Li, a driver at the Shengxing Coal Depot in Nanzuo Township, Yuanshi County, drank liquor during his lunch Sunday.

He later quarreled with a customer surnamed Qian. To take revenge on Qian, he drove the shovel loader into a make-shift office at about 3:47 p.m. Sunday.

Qian escaped, but another customer, surnamed Ding and from east China's Shandong Province, was killed.

Li continued the rampage and drove the vehicle into 40 to 50 vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses and motorcycles. Several roadside shops were also damaged or destroyed.

The suspect Li is a local from Chicun Village, Yuanshi County.

9 dead, 7 trapped in central China coal mine

Extract from Associated Press

BEIJING — A state news agency says nine workers have been killed and seven others trapped in a central China coal mine.

The official Xinhua News Agency says a "gas outburst" occurred at 11:19 p.m. Monday at the Sanyuandong Coal Mine in Dengfeng, a city in Henan province.

Xinhua said Tuesday 127 miners were underground and 111 escaped unharmed.

China's mining industry is the world's deadliest with accidents killing more than 2,600 miners throughout the country last year.

USA: Methane Monitors Weren't Disabled, Massey Says

Extract from The Wall Street Journal, US

Massey Energy Co. said methane monitors weren't disabled in a key section of the coal mine where 29 workers were killed in an April 5 explosion.

Federal investigators and a grand jury investigating the accident are looking into

tampering of safety devices, including methane monitors that are designed to shut machinery down if dangerous levels of gas are reached.

Massey officials, including CEO Don Blankenship, met with family members for several hours at a Charleston, W.Va., hotel Monday to explain progress of the company's own investigation into the accident at the Upper Big Branch Mine, the worst mining disaster in 40 years. During that session, the company said the monitors weren't disabled.

Several former Massey miners have recently said they witnessed methane monitors being disabled at the mine. The monitors are a focus of the investigations because high levels of methane are believed to have led to the explosion.

A company spokesman said members of about half of the 29 families attended the lunch and briefing, took notes and asked questions in a "cordial" atmosphere. The company has reportedly made \$3-million-dollar-settlement offers to families. Several attorneys who represent families said they are unaware of any that have accepted the offers.

Shane Harvey, Massey's general counsel, said sharing data on methane monitors would "hopefully enable families to develop a more informed understanding of the circumstances" surrounding the accident.

Tuesday 3 August 2010

10 confirmed dead in flooded manganese mines in central China

Extract from Xinhua, China

Ten people have been confirmed dead after two manganese mines in central China's Hunan Province were flooded two weeks ago, local authorities said Monday.

Water gushed into the two mine pits run by Leixin Mining Development Co. and Wenhua Manganese Co. in Huayuan County of Xiangxi

Tujia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture at about 6:10 p.m. on July 20, trapping a total of 13 miners underground.

Rescuers pulled three miners alive out of the mines on July 29 and sent them to hospital. Currently, they are in stable condition, a spokesman with the Hunan Provincial Work Safety Administration said Monday.

Rescuers had earlier retrieved seven bodies, and they found the last three bodies on Sunday morning, the spokesman said.

Local authorities are further investigating the cause of the accident, he added.

Thursday 5 August 2010

WA: Worker killed after mine shaft fall

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

A worker has been killed in an accident at a mine site at Norseman in Western Australia's Goldfields.

Police say he fell about 15 metres down an emergency shaft about 11am.

Officers say the man died on the way to hospital.

Forensic police and inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum are investigating the incident.

Friday 6 August 2010

WA: Worker's mine death investigated

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

Authorities will return to a Goldfields mine site this morning to investigate the death of a worker.

The man fell 15 metres down an emergency shaft at the Norseman gold site in Norseman yesterday morning.

The site is 190 kilometres south of Kalgoorlie.

Police say he died on the way to hospital.



Police are returning to the mine site today to investigate the death of a worker.

Police and investigators from the Department of Mines and Petroleum are investigating the incident.

20th Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar People and Plant

Wednesday 11 August 2010 -

Thursday 12 August 2010

Waterview Convention Centre

Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush

Contact Julie Downie, I&I NSW, 02 4931 6624.

Registration form at:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/340887/MESS-2010-rego-brochure.pdf

Mining dictionary

A guide to common mining terminology

W

whip

A timber beam set at an acute angle above a shallow *shaft*. A rope passes over a pulley at the end of the beam, one end being attached to a bucket or *kibble* down the shaft, the other to a horse harness. The horse walks backwards and forwards raising and lowering the bucket.

A variation is the circular whip, where the horse walks in a circle drawing a pole pivoted in the centre of the circle. A rope attached to the pole runs over a pulley above the shaft, raising or lowering the bucket as the rope end travels around the circle.

-Ed