

MinEx newsletter July 2015

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THE NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL FOR THE
NEW ZEALAND MINING AND QUARRY SECTOR

July 2015

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In the interests of safety in our industry please circulate widely.

Recent fatalities

In the last 3 months there have been 3 fatalities in the quarry sector and these have been well publicised in the media and in previous MinEx's publications. While it will be some time before all of the facts come out and we know exactly what caused the accidents, we can draw some lessons from these events.

These include:

- Guarding;
- Vehicle interactions and vehicle maintenance (brakes, steering, seat-belts); and,
- Ground control.

The Waikari quarry photographs that have appeared in the media show a highwall with no benching and with a joint surface dipping into the pit and evidence of previous rock falls along much of the highwall.

All mining and quarry operations, particularly those with face heights over 10m, should examine their highwalls for evidence of instability and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of their workers.

Operations covered by the 2013 mining regulations should by now have completed a geotechnical assessment of their operations and put in place any controls required to ensure a safe operation.

While quarry and alluvial gold operations are not covered by these regulations this does not remove the obligation on them to also carry out a geotechnical assessment of their highwalls, particularly if they have previously shown any signs of instability. This assessment might be simply a thorough examination

by the CoC holder in charge or might require an assessment by a geotechnical expert.

While it is the fatalities that get all the media attention our MinEx statistics show that in the period from July 2014 there have been 16 lost time injuries in the Quarry sector, and none in the surface mining sector. No comparative data is received from the alluvial sector and that is an issue we are seeking to address.

H&S Health and Safety at Work Bill

regulations submission

MinEx submitted on these regulations and the submission is located [here](#).

In summary, our key submission was that the quarry and alluvial sectors should be included under the 2013 Mining Regulations subject to certain amendments being made in the areas of:

- The role of the SSE;
- The need to appoint a Mechanical and/or Electrical Superintendent;
- The Supervisor competency;
- The need to submit regular mine plans for alluvial aggregate operations;
- The need to closely supervise untrained workers;
- Transition provisions;
- The definition of a quarry;
- The need to extend the ability of the Chief Inspector to issue exemptions.

Reaction to this submission from the quarry sector has included strong support, and strong opposition. There are strong concerns that the 2013 Mining Regulations, even with these amendments, will impose an unreasonable duty on quarry operations. Of course, underpinning these concerns is the imperative for work places to be safer. Discussion continues.

Safety statistics

The March quarter safety statistics have been posted on the MinEx website and can also be found [here](#). These show:

- There were 7 lost time injuries and 1 fatality during the quarter;
- The underground LTI was in the tunnel sector;
- All other incidents were in surface mines and all of these were in the quarry sector;
- Opencast mines, as distinct from quarries, have been LTI free since July 2014;
- The surface mine 12 month rolling frequency trend is reducing; and,
- The underground 12 month rolling frequency shows a steep decrease as a result of both continuing low numbers of LTIs along with an increase in hours in the statistics reported.

Silica WES submissions

WorkSafe has released a workplace exposure standard for crystalline silica (quartz) which proposes a limit of 0.025 mg/m³. This is presumably a time weighted average for exposure during an 8 hour workday for a total of 40 hours per week.

The current NZ guidance value is 0.2 mg/m³. The Australian National Exposure Standard is 0.1 mg/m³.

An alluvial gravel operator has supplied recent dust sample data that shows only 1 of 6 samples collected would have achieved the proposed standard so this is an important issue for opencast mines and quarries as well as for underground mines.

MinEx will be making a submission according to the programme below:

- MinEx issues document released 26 June;
- Members responses due 3 July;
- Draft submission released 24 July;
- Members responses 31 July; and,
- Submission due 7 August.

MinEx has spoken to Civil Contractors NZ and the Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) who are interested in a joint submission.

Given the technical nature of the submission, MinEx will need to commission an expert supporting report.

Extractive industries H&S Forums

The first of these Forums was held in Greymouth 17 June with approximately 100 people attending from all sectors of the industry.

The Forum is a joint WorkSafe/MinEx initiative with the objective of drawing in those operations that are not engaged with any of the industry organisations and in this way assisting them to improve their health and safety performance.

The next session is planned in Tauranga at the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, 90 Keith Allen Drive on Wednesday 8 July. 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start.

So we have an idea of numbers please email office@minex.org.nz to confirm if you are able to attend.

Further forums are planned:

- Alexandra – August 2015;
- Whangarei – September 2015;
- Ashburton – October 2015; and,
- Invercargill – November 2015.

Please note that the details for forums from August onwards are only provisional at this stage, and will be updated on the MinEx website and emailed out as dates and locations are confirmed.

CoC training

Much progress has been made here with MinEx releasing a number of training schedules for new competency training.

[Here on our website you will find a calendar with all of these courses below mapped out](#)

You can find out more about the training providers from the links below:

[MITO](#)

[Tai Poutini Polytechnic](#)

[ACT Safety](#)

Information about training programmes in 2015 can be found below.

[MITO 2015 SCP Programmes](#)

[MITO Training Information for Superintendants](#)

[NZQA 26856 - Risk Management Course Information](#)

[MITO Training Information for Senior Site Executives](#)

[Tai Poutini Training Schedule and Registration Lists](#)

[Tai Poutini RIIRIS402D - Risk Management Process](#)

Next week we will be completing a capacity assessment on the training being offered. This is expected to show the need for more Human Factors (26855) courses along with generally more training courses being offered in the North Island and particularly in risk management (26856).

You can find out more information about training schedules and requirements at our [website](#).

Codes and guidance programme

Opencast, quarry and alluvial mines guidelines

WorkSafe has completed additional work on these in the last month and will be submitting them to the MinEx review team in the next few weeks before they are finalised and released.

Emergency Management ACOP

This plan is to be drafted over the next few months and consulted on in September 2015 and MinEx will form a review team for this.

Ground Control ACOP

Further consultation on this is expected in September.

WorkSafe advise that they are reviewing the contents of the draft plan (earlier circulated to the industry working group) with their specialist inspector. More work is required to redraft the content and get it into shape as an ACOP. Meantime, an Interpretive Guide on preparing a PHMP for Ground or Strata Instability is under development. WorkSafe expect this will be published in the interim - before the ACOP.

Spontaneous Combustion ACOP

Further consultation on this is expected in September. WorkSafe intend to send chapters to the MinEx review group members for initial comments as they are drafted.

Worker Health ACOP

Consultation on this is expected in September.

Air Quality ACOP

Consultation on this is expected in November.

Extractive qualifications review

The recommendations are with NZQA for approval and we hope to have a response within the next 2 months.

An industry level 2 introductory unit was submitted to NZQA in May.

A draft Mine Surveying qualification has been developed by a MinEx working group and is to be submitted in draft form to NZQA this week.

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