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Martin Henry ROWLANDS

Findings and Recommendations

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The Mines Regulation Act 1964

Findings and recommendations of reviewers and mining warden following an inquiry into fatal injuries received by Martin Henry Rowlands at Hilton mine Mount Isa on 4 october 1990 warden's court of Queensland Mount Isa 12 march 1991

Before: Mr F W Windridge esquire Warden

Reviewers:

- MR R R GRACE
- MR G H HUTCHISON
- MR J W MOORE
- MR F SIBBEL

To assist:

MR G SLEZIAK, inspector of mines.

Appearances:

- MR W BOULTON, appearing for widow and children of deceased, also appearing for Mr Gudge
- MR G MOUSLEY, district workers' representative
- MR C NOTHLING, solicitor for company and registered management

Witnesses examined: refer transcript and [schedule "a"](#)

Exhibits tendered: refer transcript and [schedule "b"](#)

Findings: refer transcript and [schedule "c"](#)

Recommendations: refer transcript and [schedule "d"](#)

Report of mining warden: refer transcript and [schedule "e"](#)

Schedule "A" Witnesses examined:

- Marshall John BRIANT
- Ricky Alan GUDGE
- Felix James LEAHY
- Bruce John STEWART

- Albert William KERWIN
- Patrick David BARRS
- Donald Gordon PITT
- David John HARSTOFF
- John Charles WESTCOTT
- Michael David MacFARLANE
- David WALTERS

Schedule "B" List of Exhibits

No of Exhibit	Nature of Exhibit
1	Statement - J T Lewis
2	Statement - K J Allen
3	Post Mortem Certificate
4	Post Mortem Report
5	Statement - R A Gudge
6	Five Point Check List - Sample
7	Record Book Entry
8	Mine Manager's Report
9	Survey Plans
10	Photographs
11	Safety Instruction Book
12	Page from Mine Safety Instruction Booklet
13	Updated version of Mine Safety Instruction Booklet
14	Statement - B J Stewart
15	Statement - A W Kerwin

16	Five Point Safety Check List
17	Statement - P D Barrs
18	Statement - D G Pitt
19	Statement - D J Harstoff
20	Statement - J D Westcott
21	Statement - M D MacFarlane
22	Statement - D Walters
23	Instructions regarding Split Sets

Schedule "C" Findings:

We find -

Name of deceased: Martin Henry Rowlands

Seriously injured person: Ricky Alan Gudge

Date of accident and death of deceased: 4 october 1990

Location of accident and death of deceased: KD51 incline, 9a sublevel in the Hilton mine

Nature of accident:

At some time between 11-35am and midday on 4 october 1990, miner Martin Rowlands and nipper Ricky Gudge were replacing a faulty hydraulic hose on the right-hand boom of an Atlas Copco Boomer H128 two-boom jumbo (more specifically identified as MIM Unit No 3521) which was then drilling at the heading of KD51 incline on 9a sublevel in the Hilton mine. Both men were standing between the right-hand or western sidewall and the right-hand boom of the jumbo which was about one metre above floor level and the same distance from the sidewall. While they were so engaged a section of the western sidewall slipped off and fell upon them. Rowlands was crushed and held against the boom which Gudge fell to the floor with rocks covering his lower body. Rowlands died at the site from asphyxia and spinal cord avulsion. Gudge suffered a fractured skull and lumbar spinal injuries.

Cause of accident:

Both men had exposed themselves in a confined space beneath a sidewall that had not been properly secured.

Schedule "D" Recommendations:

The recommendations of the reviewers are as follows:

We cannot emphasise too strongly the need for all face persons to be constantly alert for deteriorating ground conditions and the continual need to bar down. This assumes greater importance with the increasing size of development openings. To ensure that a suitable scaling bar is always available, management should investigate the practicability of carrying such a bar

attached to each mobile face unit.

Where it is deemed necessary to install temporary ground support right up to the face of an advancing development heading, procedures should be adopted to minimise personnel exposure to unsecured ground. These include:

Individual split-sets should be placed as soon as each hole is drilled and each ring of support should be completed before proceeding with the next ring closer to the face.

When doing maintenance work on mobile equipment, the unit in question should be positioned under secured ground and adequate space allowed for the work to be performed.

In unravelling ground, smooth wall blasting techniques should be adopted for the sidewalls and the backs to limit the damage to the ground.

Schedule "E" Report of the Warden:

I concur with the findings of the reviewers as to the nature and cause of the accident.

The inquiry is closed.

Last Updated 21 October 2007

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Great state. Great opportunity.