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Urgent Coal Mining Research Needs

Current mining

Extraction of small, shallow pillars – increase life of Witbank field Time effect on pillar stability – confirm and refine existing Pillar loading, overburden role Barrier strength and spacing

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Waterberg preparation

What are the host rock characteristics? How do we mine thick, deep seams? How do we mine using less water? How will we support the roof? What equipment will we need?

South Africa needs a strong mining industry: safe, productive, profitable

"What saves a man is to take a step. Then another step. It is always the same step, but you have to take it."

We need to do the research

Current Coal RE Doctoral Research at Wits

Extraction of small, shallow pillars – Sandor Petho (part time) Squat pillar review – Markus Matthey (full time) Vaal Basin strength – Gift Makusha (part time) Waterberg characterisation – Lelani Prinsloo (part time)

Probability of failure - Self

