



Mine Name	MineID	Operator	Activity Type	Activity Date
Grasstree Mine	MI01459	Anglo Coal (Capcoal Management) Pty Ltd	Postal Mine Record Entry	14/04/2020

Vision: Our Industries Free of Safety and Health Incidents

Mine Record Entry

Note that inspection or audit activities conducted by the Mines Inspectorate are based upon sample techniques. It remains the primary responsibility of Mine Personnel to identify hazards, and risks associated with Operations and ensure those risks are at an acceptable level.

Today 14 April 2020, I, Inspector of Mines Stephen Smith, issue a directive to the SSE of Grasstree mine, to suspend operation of longwall 808, until the methane monitoring system in the return roadway is in compliance with s.243A of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulations 2017.

The purpose of the monitor required by the regulation is clearly described in the explanatory notes provided when this regulation was introduced:

Locating the automatic methane detector at this distance is intended to ensure that the impacts of dust and moisture laden air closer to the longwall face machines will not be impacting on the reliability of the sensor, in reading the concentration of methane resulting from the mixing of methane from the cutting goaf second workings and methane in the return airway.

Modelling of methane monitoring data indicates that if the general body concentration of methane is reaching 2.5% or above in the return airway, then the general body concentration adjacent to the tailgate end of the longwall face would probably be reaching 4.5% or higher.

The automatic methane detector that is installed on the canopy of the last Tailgate shield does not meet this requirement. The sensor you have indicated to be installed in the TG dog leg roadway is in a location where a sensor is required by s.243A to be configured to provide a tripping function to the electricity supply to the armoured face conveyor and the longwall shearer cutters when the general body concentration of methane detected in the return air exceeds 2%.

243A Return airway in ventilation split intersecting with longwall face

(1) This section applies—

(a) in relation to a return airway in a ventilation split that intersects with a longwall face; and

(b) in addition to the requirements under section 243.

(2) At least 1 automatic methane detector must be located in the return airway within 400m of the intersection with the longwall face.

(3) The detector must automatically—

(a) activate a visible alarm when the general body concentration of methane detected in the return air exceeds the percentage stated in the mine's principal hazard management plan for ventilation as the percentage that must not be exceeded before the detector activates the alarm; and

(b) trip the electricity supply to the armoured face conveyor and the longwall shearer cutters when the general body concentration of methane detected in the return air exceeds 2%.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Directive</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
	Pursuant to section 167 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999	
1	Non-compliant gas monitoring	30/04/2020
	The SSE is to suspend Longwall mining operations at Grasstree underground coal mine due to the methane monitoring system in the Longwall return roadway not complying with section 243A of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulations 2017.	

Please provide a written status report on each Directive together with the actions taken to address each item by their due dates

Stephen Smith
Inspector of Mines