



Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee

Response to Further Public Submissions on Extended Terms of Reference

20 September 2017

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DNRM RESPONSE TO FURTHER PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS ON THE EXTENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) provided a response to public submissions on the Committee's extended terms of reference on 1 August 2017. Since that time, five further public submissions have been made; this document contains DNRM's response to these further submissions. DNRM reiterates its commitment to assist the Committee in progressing its inquiry on the extended terms of reference.

Table 1 – DNRM response to public submissions on extended terms of reference

| Sub no. | Submitter | Summary | DNRM response |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| 23 | Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) | <p>The AIOH submission advocates for developing and implementing evidence-based dust management plans to control dust exposure in all mining processes, including metalliferous and extractive industries and coal handling operations.</p> <p>The AIOH state that, as for the coal sector, these plans should provide for: mine ventilation; engineering controls; dust suppression, especially on haul and travel roads, stockpiles and dumps; personal respiratory protection; targeted personal exposure assessment of air borne dust levels, and submission of associated data to all relevant stakeholders; awareness-raising measures in the workplace; active health surveillance; and regular independent audits and reviews for each of these elements.</p> | <p>DNRM supports in principle the recommendations made in the AIOH submission. The intent of the recommendations concerning coal mines have been addressed in recognised standards 14 and 15; and for mineral mines and quarries, in guideline 02 (GL02).</p> <p>DNRM's work in respect of dust management plans and exposure controls for Queensland's mineral mines and quarries sector is further outlined in the briefing paper provided to the Committee on 8 June 2017, and in the initial response to public submissions provided on 1 August 2017.</p> <p>DNRM also refer to a previous submission made to the Committee in response to a question about GL02 received from Mr McMillan (Counsel Assisting) following the Mining Industry Health and</p> |

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| | | | Safety Conference on 6 August 2017. |
| 24 | Office of Industrial Relations (OIR), Queensland Treasury | The OIR's submission provides an overview of the regulatory framework and activities of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland in relation to work-related respirable dust exposures. | The matters raised in this submission do not fall within the DNRM portfolio. |
| 25 | Shane Brunker | Mr Brunker provides an overview of his experience as District Vice President of the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division (Queensland), and outlines his concerns regarding dust exposure and controls in the coal fired power generation and coal porting sectors. | The matters raised in this submission do not fall within the DNRM portfolio. |
| 26 | Kenelec Scientific Pty Ltd | <p>Kenelec Scientific describe the AM520 real time monitoring device manufactured by TSI Incorporated in the US. The company is seeking to have an intrinsically safe version of this device, the AM520i certified under the International System for the Certification of Equipment for Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) scheme to the intrinsic safety standards. The company has submitted the AM520i to the CSA Group, a Canadian Certification body, for evaluation and certification. When the AM520i has been IECEx certified overseas, TSI will submit the product to Simtars for certification conversion by a nationally recognised certification body in accordance with the requirements of the Queensland Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulations. The product is not currently being evaluated by Simtars.</p> <p>CSA certification was originally expected to be completed by November 2016 and has still not yet been finalised. It is understood that Kenelec Scientific is proposing to TSI that the product be independently submitted to Simtars for complete evaluation, testing and certification (that is, independent of the CSA process). Simtars has provided Kenelec Scientific with information</p> | <p>The Kenelec submission notes that material for initial submission to Simtars is currently under review by the device/s American manufacturer. Kenelec have raised with Simtars the possibility of independently seeking certification by Simtars. However, Kenelec has not yet submitted anything to Simtars. As such, DNRM cannot comment at this time.</p> <p>DNRM is supportive of the use of real-time dust monitoring devices, that are certified as intrinsically safe, as a tool to assess compliance or the effectiveness of controls in mines. However, devices that use light-scattering technology such as the AM520 cannot be used to determine mass gravimetrically in accordance with AS2985,</p> |

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| | | <p>and application materials to enable this to occur, but to date Kenelec Scientific has not submitted an application to Simtars.</p> <p>Kenelec seek to meet with Committee members to discuss their products.</p> | <p>which is the standard that applies under the <i>Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017</i>.</p> <p>Therefore, measurements from these devices cannot be used to assess compliance with exposure limits and are indicative only.</p> |
| 27 | Jeff Cross | <p>Mr Cross' submission advocates for including coal train drivers in the scope of the CWPSC's extended terms of reference.</p> | <p>The matters raised in this submission do not fall within the DNRM portfolio.</p> |