

PRRA Staff Weekly Unite for the Recovery Update # 8 – Monday 13 July 2020

Hi everyone

Welcome to the 8th edition Pike River Recovery Agency weekly staff update which includes information on uniting for the recovery from COVID-19, operational matters and acknowledging the win by the Crusaders on Saturday!!!! Please forward any contributions to me that would be of interest to the team.

UPDATES FROM www.uniteforrecovery.govt.nz



Funding for sports and recreational clubs

Many clubs have suffered as a result of COVID-19 funding. Here's some information on the Community Resilience Fund set up by the Government for Regional Sports Trusts to access. <https://sportnz.org.nz/covid-19/sector-advice/sector-support-package/community-resilience-fund/>

Information about confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-current-cases>

AGENCY UPDATES

Good progress continues to be made underground. The 1100 metre mark has been reached, and all prescribed bolting until 2,100 metres of the drift (when the tunnel moves from rock into coal measures) has now been completed. Bolting work in addition to that which has been prescribed will continue to be carried out if/as required.

The trial of the new shift system has completed its second week and is continuing to go well in terms of health and safety and the progress being made underground. The first meeting of the group established to monitor the trial of the extended shift roster and other improvement initiatives was held on Tuesday 7 July. Matters discussed included:

- Ways of ensuring that other activities (including scheduled training) still allow an optimal number of people to be working underground as well as enough people available above ground to act as first responders if required
- Active monitoring of potential and actual worker fatigue

- Practical strategies for proactive management of fatigue scenarios (e.g. the workers driving other workers home at 2.30 am after the late shift in winter driving conditions)
- The time savings being achieved during the trial of new arrangements for carrying out the daily pre-shift statutory inspections (shift crews are getting into the drift up to 45 minutes earlier than before)
- Other improvement initiatives identified by workforce members

The next meeting of the group is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 14 July. The daily pre-shift statutory inspection trial is going very well and has been extended as well.

Health & Safety

- Refreshed Fatigue and Stress Management Policy roll-out
- Health and Safety Committee review and endorsement of worker engagement policy
- Hazard: Incident ratio annual report
- ICAM investigation – second stage main fan stoppage

The Health and Safety Operational Weekly meeting was held at the mine site on Tuesday 30 June. Items discussed included:

- Completion of fatigue management forms.
- Safe work observations – Five observations were completed during the week, three by statutory officials and two by other mineworkers
- Hazard: Incident ratio – it was another good week for hazards being identified
- Corrective action being taken to address identified hazards
- Monitoring arrangements when the pre-shift statutory inspections are being carried out
- Completion of the regular weekly surface inspection (no matters requiring corrective action were identified)
- Ongoing training including refresher helicopter inductions for those who are due for these
- Other safety improvements and initiatives

From the Office (Wellington and Greymouth)

The office team are focused on end of financial year work; the Draft Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020; quality assurance of the Chief Executive's expense disclosure for the year ended 30 June 2020; preparations for the external audit of the Agency planned to start in August 2020; preparing July management team papers; and refreshing guidance to Agency designated drivers regarding managing fatigue.



Chief Executive Dave Gawn cataloguing Pike River Coal records in the Agency Greymouth office today.

Re-entry and recovery operations – as at Friday 10 July

- Prescribed bolting between 1045m and 1080m with 164 bolts installed over six shifts.
- A JHA was completed for the removal of Russell Smith's loader
- Pull testing of bolts was completed in accordance with the Geotech TARP and operating procedure. All tested bolts passed
- The local contractor who is carrying out rehabilitation work has filled in three ponds. Bridge abutment work will begin in coming weeks

Notifiable event – responding to a fault on one of the small generators on the Mount Hawera Lower ridge line – narrative as at Thursday 9 July 2020 9am

On Sunday 5 July statutory officials (4) responded to a detected fault with one of the small generators on the hill. The generator was located on the Mount Hawera Lower ridge line and provided power to the nitrogen injection valves and real-time gas monitoring equipment at one of the boreholes into the drift as well as charging batteries which run off installed solar panels.

On inspection the clamp of the return diesel hose had failed and allowed diesel to leak from the main tank. The hose was repaired and the generator was restarted. It was observed for a period of time until all personnel were happy it was functioning as expected. Shortly after, however, as personnel were about to leave the mine site it was reported that the generator had stopped again. While arrangements were being made to get a second generator ready to fly up to replace the faulty generator, it (the faulty one) caught fire. When personnel arrived again at the location the smouldering fire was extinguished and photographs were taken of the scene. The incident was immediately reported to WorkSafe NZ.

An ICAM investigation into this incident is underway, and a fire specialist has been engaged to visit the mine site shortly to assist in diagnosing what caused the fire.

Enhanced controls are being considered including:

- not having a generator on the Mount Hawera lower ridge line and instead running a cable from the ventilation shaft to provide the power required
- fire suppression options for the remaining generator on the hill to make sure that the possibility of the same thing happening again is mitigated; and
- utilising one of the cameras at the vent shaft to monitor the generator from the control room

It will only be possible to implement such longer term controls when prevailing weather conditions are suitable for sustained helicopter operations. In the meantime the faulty generator has not been replaced and the valves and real-time monitoring equipment are running off the solar panel and batteries. The batteries were able to be recharged on Wednesday 8 July when weather conditions allowed a short helicopter flight to be made.

Take care everyone and stay safe!
Have a great week.

Best regards
Michelle