



**NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

Mine Safety

Thursday, 9 September 2004

Attention:

Mine Safety staff,
ALL equipment manufacturers,
ALL underground mines
CSAC, MISAC, QLD Inspectorate,
Mine managers association,
MEMMES,
ALL relevant unions

Dear Sir

Re: Unplanned movement of remote controlled mining machines.

Unplanned movements or unexpected responses (UMO) of remote controlled machines in NSW underground mines continue to occur. Recent experience in the USA has shown that remote controlled mining machines can present a high risk, as demonstrated by a number of fatal accidents involving remote controlled machines. An unexpected movement of a remote controlled machine has the potential to seriously injure or kill mineworkers.

To improve the design of remote controlled machines and reduce the associated risk, information on the causes of unplanned movements and unexpected responses needs to be gathered in a consistent manner and the number of "incidents" reported needs to be maximised. Legislation currently requires certain unplanned movements to be reported, however, this reporting may not capture all unplanned movements of remote controlled mining machines used in underground mines.

Attached is a report form and associated flowchart for reporting of unplanned movements of remote controlled mining machines. I encourage you to report every unplanned movement of remote controlled mining machines, irrespective of legislative requirements. I also encourage you to use the attached flowchart and report form, so that industry can thoroughly understand the issues of remote control operation.

The flowchart and report form can be accessed on the department's website at, <http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety>.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact:

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Yours faithfully

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