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Gordon Dudley WOOD

Findings and Recommendations

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The *Coal Mining Act 1925 - 1981*

Findings and recommendations of reviewers and mining warden following an inquiry into fatal injuries received by Gordon Dudley Wood at Goonyella-Riverside mine on 19 december 1991 warden's court of Quensland Mackay 30 april 1992

Before: F W WINDRIDGE esquire Warden

Reviewers:

- Mr Joseph Barraclough
- Mr Geoffrey Robert Saunders
- Mr Gregory John Shannen
- Mr Russell George Zerner

To assist:

Mr B B Biggam, Inspector of mines

Appearances:

- MR W ALLISON, appearing for the widow and the United Mine Workers' federation
- MR D CARROL, representing BHP Utah Coal Ltd

Witnesses examined: refer transcript and [schedule "a"](#)

Exhibits tendered: refer transcript and [schedule "b"](#)

Findings: refer transcript and [schedule "c"](#)

Recommendations: refer transcript and [schedule "d"](#)

Report of mining warden: refer transcript and [schedule "e"](#)

Schedule "A" Witnesses examined:

- Alexander Hughen CAMPBELL
- Sean Desmond MARTIN
- Robert Bruce TREASURE
- John Anderson McLEOD
- Charles Frederick GOURLEY

- Athol James MacKENZIE
- Ian Raymond BRUCE
- Raymond Leslie John PATRONI
- Graham John HAYDEN
- Brian John BLACK

Schedule "B" List of Exhibits

No of Exhibit	Nature of Exhibit
1	Life Extinct Certificate
2	Report with Three-dimensional views of Accident Site
3	Mr G O Wood's Employment History
4	Revised Procedure
5	Detailed Procedure
6	Report on Accident of 10 March 1991
7	Post Mortem Examination
8	Post Mortem Certificate
9	State by Dr S D Martin
10	Blood Alcohol Certificate
11	Letter - Dr P E Wignall
12	Statement R B Treasure
13	Statement and Record of Interview by Mr V Tolo
14	Statement and Record of Interview by Mr J A McLeod
15	Statement and Record of Interview by Mr C F Gourley
16	Statement and Record of Interview by Mr A J MacKenzie

17	Reports on Progress Work on Number One Open Feeder and ROM One Open Feeder Lock-up and Accident
18	Statement and Record of Interview by Mr R L J Patroni
19	Statement by Mr G J Hayden

Schedule "C" Findings:

We find:

Name of deceased: Gordon Dudley Wood

Date of death: 19 december 1990

Place of death: Goonyella Riverside mine

Nature of accident:

At the commencement of the morning shift on 19 december 1990, Gordon Dudley Wood together with Vinko Tolo and John McLeod were attempting to clear a blockage in ROM 1 at Goonyella Riverside mine. To effect clearance Wood was utilising a high pressure water hose on the top of the R.O.M. 1 hopper whilst Tolo had entered the chute to remove pieces of coal and rock by hand. It appears Wood arranged for water to be applied to the hopper bin via the spray bars on the water truck in lieu of the water truck fire hose. Wood then proceeded down the stairs to the top of the apron feeder cover. A short time later there was an outrush of coal and water. Tolo was caught up in this outrush but managed to extricate himself with only minor injuries. Both Tolo and McLeod state they heard Wood call out. It was then realised Wood had disappeared from the apron feeder where he was last positively sighted. After a search and removal of some coal, the body of Wood was recovered from the conveyor.

The panel considers it more probable than not that Wood left the top of the chute area and proceeded to the platform that allows access to the conveyor belt. At this time, the first outrush of coal occurred and the events that followed precipitated a heart attack, resulting in Wood being engulfed in the flowing material.

Cause of death

Cause of death was acute Myocardial Infarction due to severe coronary atherosclerosis. Post mortem examination excluded death by drowning, asphyxiation or bodily injuries.

Schedule "D" Recommendations:

The recommendations of the reviewers are as follows:

The panel recommends consideration be given to removal of blockages by mechanical means from the top of the R.O.M. bin to minimise the need for personnel engaged in cleaning out or blasting operations at the base of the R.O.M. hopper. We note the amended and upgraded procedures already in place, but recommend that a review be conducted in relation to work being carried out in tail pulley areas whilst bin cleaning operations are in progress.

It is recommended that if water is added to the bin from the R.O.M. truck grid, there should be strict control over the quantity of water used by a responsible person.

It is recommended that careful attention be paid to eliminating the possibility of metal to metal contact between the skirt plates and feeder flights whenever maintenance or repair work is carried out on this equipment.

Schedule "E" Report of the Warden:

I concur with the findings of the reviewers as to the nature and cause of the accident.

The inquiry is closed.

Last Updated 21 October 2007

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Great state. Great opportunity.