



MinEx Health & Safety Council

Report of the MinEx Board for Year Ended 31 March 2010

The strategy for MinEx is:

1. Coordinate the provision of meaningful health and safety information and resources to the industry.
2. Promote the improvement of small to large operators' health and safety capability, at all times promoting best practice approaches.
3. Become the industry's recognised health and safety spokesgroup with all stakeholders including government, public and industry.

Board Members

At 31 March 2010 the members were:

Steve Dohnt (Aggregates) – Chairman
Tony Hunter (Aggregates)
John Kay (Coal)
Paul Hunt (Coal)
Mike Townsend (Industrial Minerals)
Colin Morgan (Industrial Minerals)
Andy Schmidt (Metallic Minerals)
Peter Atkinson (Metallic Minerals)
Ged O'Connell (EPM Union)
Snow Edgar (NZ Contractors Federation)

Association Representatives (by invitation):

Warwick Leach (IOQ)
Les McCracken (Aus IMM)

Financial Report

The financial position of MinEx at 31 March 2010 is shown in the audited annual accounts and financial statements submitted to members.

MinEx is reliant upon subscriptions from members in order to advance its objectives and had sufficient funds to complete its major tasks in the past year.

Annual Plan 2009 – 2010

During the period the following key issues were progressed:

Review of Codes of Practice and Guidelines

The review of the surface and underground of COP's and a number of guidelines was completed, and apart from the UG explosives guidelines have been posted on the website at www.minex.org.nz

These include:

Mining & Tunnelling CoP, Surface Mining, Quarrying Industries CoP, Crushing and Screening Guideline, Explosives Surface Guideline, Strata Management Guideline (UG), Ventilation Guideline (UG).

As these are dynamic documents we look forward to further feedback from industry members to assist MinEx in keeping the COP's and guidelines current and subject to continual improvement.

Please send any comments you may have to office@minex.co.nz

Further Guidelines will be added each year.

Review of Surface Certificates of Competence (CoC)

The MinEX working party reviewing the surface CoC has completed its review and submitted its recommendation to the Board for approval at its May 10 meeting. The recommendations have been sent out for industry consultation and feedback. The final recommendation to be submitted to the Secretary of Labour for Gazetting is expected in September 2010 with a change in the Gazette sometime around 1 April 2011.

This has been a challenging project and our thanks goes to the review team.

MinEx Incident Reporting System

MinEx implemented a confidential incident reporting system by email during FY09. Incident reporting definitions outline the type of information being sought and are accompanied by a reporting template to enable consolidation of statistics into a simple and usable format. During FY10 this format was further improved for ease of use.

The information from industry is being collected on a quarterly basis and is displayed in aggregated format for a full year on the website at www.minex.org.nz

The benefit of this information cannot be under-estimated as part of industry's safety focus but it does rely on members supplying the quarterly information.

The Board's focus now is to maintain the flow of information and then expand the number of contributing companies to increase the validity of information.

Liaison with ACC

As discussed above the importance of good statistical data to further MinEx's aims has become critical. It is clear that complete and accurate information that covers all sectors of our industry will be difficult to gain from industry itself. To compliment industry information MinEx has established a liaison with ACC's Workplace Priority Unit and with their help intends to build a more accurate statistical database from which members will be able to benchmark and drive future strategies. As we understand the types of injuries affecting our industry we may be able to obtain ACC funding for assistance in preparing specific interventions.

Liaison with Department of Labour (DoL)

Over the year MinEx has worked closely with DoL to build a closer relationship. As a result, MinEx has been invited to participate in the development of;

- 1) A standard HSE system for SME mines; and
- 2) A draft qualification for mines inspectors.

Both of these initiatives have far reaching impact. A standard HSE system will go a long way to ensuring SME's legal requirements under the Health and Safety Act are covered. Such a resource should resonate well with smaller operators who are constrained by time and human resource to undertake such tasks.

The second point demonstrates a change in DoL thinking as a following on from the Black Reef tragedy. At the time of writing we understand that there are 20 current DoL inspectors that are receiving training in mines inspection and that there may be more. The Board sees this as a positive move and would like to assist the DoL in the development and expertise of these inspectors.

Submissions

In the last 12 months MinEx have made submissions to;

- ERMA on the changes to the explosives regulations,
- Tertiary Education Commissions (TEC) on their proposal for overlapping provisions between ITO's and Polytechnics and their proposal to stop funding for short course H&S training. We have yet to have a response to our submission.
- DOL on changes to the current Certificate of Competence specifically requiring overseas applicants to complete unit standard 7142. Their response is awaited.

Safety Alerts

MinEx continues to distribute by email Safety alerts from several sources to members and others in the industry who have expressed interest in this free service. The alerts are sourced both locally and overseas and are designed to provide prompt details about safety incidents that may be applicable to many other work sites. The range of alerts is being steadily expanded.

If you would like to receive the safety Alerts or know someone who may be interested, please contact Roger Parton on 04 568 9123 or 021 301 522, or at office@minex.org.nz

MinEx Website

The functions and ease of use of the website have been reviewed and an update of the website is expected to be completed in FY11.

Draft Annual Plan FY11

The draft annual plan will be tabled for consideration at the annual general meeting. We are seeking Member input on the plan prior to finalization.

Administration

Roger Parton continues to act as Secretary under his contract with MinEx. His contribution and support over the past year is gratefully acknowledged.

Acknowledgements

Considerable progress has been made in the FY10 year and our sincere thanks must go to the MinEx Board for all their hard work which is all done on a voluntary basis and a genuine desire to improve safety within our industry.

We also acknowledge the strong support of our members and the industry through the provision of expertise and funding.

We look forward to assisting the industry further improve its health and safety performance in FY11.

For and on behalf of the MinEx Board

Steve Dohnt
Chairman

27 May 2010