AUSIMM - Mine Vent 2019
26 August – 28 August 2019, Perth, Australia

Ventilation and workers health: A regulator's perspective

Andrew Chaplyn*
Dept. Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety
1 Adelaide Tce Perth Western Australia

KEYWORDS Improving the health of miners through ventilation and other controls by minimizing atmospheric contaminant exposure.

(risk assessment, design standards, training, monitoring)

ABSTRACT

Western Australian underground mines over the decades have increased in productivity and depth requiring more sophisticated controls. Concurrently, airborne contaminant exposure standards have become more stringent. Mine operators are required to review and adapt the controls for these changing risks.

Contemporary engineering practices and an informed workforce are key aspects enshrined in the objects of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994.

The key note will highlight:-

- Ventilation initiatives undertaken by the department to engage with mine operators which led to issuing Mine Safety Bulletin 151
- The progress towards the development of a ventilation code of practice
- Requirements for a Health and Hygiene Management Plan to control health hazards to miners
- Projects undertaken to address emerging issues in diesel exhaust emissions to characterise nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM), through the Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) working group, sponsored by DMIRS and Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA)
- What the future holds with respect to new legislation (Work Health and Safety) and competency requirements for the role of ventilation officers in WA.

* Andrew Chaplyn
State mining engineer
Director Mines Safety, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety