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MINING AND QUARRYING INTELLIGENCE

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MinEx wants alluvial gold code of practice included in regulations

Cameron Massey - Tue, 03 Apr 2018

MinEx proposes a code of practice for alluvial gold operations in its submission for the mining and quarry health and safety regulations review.

Chief executive Wayne Scott met with Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Iain Lees-Galloway last month to discuss the review of the mining and quarry regulations, under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Scott says because alluvial gold sites and quarries were exempt from the regulations they haven't had the same level of detailed guidance, leading to some confusion and misinterpretation about what is required under the Act.

"We want that sharpened up. We're looking to correct some errors in, and unintended consequences from, the 2013 Mining and Quarrying Regulations," he says.

"We think a code of practice would be the best solution for the alluvial gold sector."

Timeline

Lees-Galloway told Scott he is fast-tracking the review. Consultation is expected in April through to May, and then drafting of a bill from July until October, alongside a regulatory impact statement.

The Minister wants the updated regulations in place by December.

Since an initial regulation review in 2016, which "lined it up" with new Act, a more thorough review has been on the agenda of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for a period of time, with little progress reported to date.

Better guidance

If the law is not prescriptive enough, Scott says it can lead to ambiguity and incorrect interpretation.

"For quarries, we think they can fit into the regulations with some tweaking."

"The Act doesn't prescribe a lot of the stuff that is required in quarries, there's some guidance material, but it is only that, guidance."

Electrical, mechanical

MinEx would also like to see changes to the Certificates of Competence relating to electrical and mechanical superintendents.

With only a handful of electrical and mechanical superintendent CoC holders in the country, Scott says these have given the mining sector "huge problems", particularly around availability.

"We're suggesting a competency model. Those electrical and mechanical control plans need to be prepared and managed by a competent person, and that will vary depending on the nature of the risk."

He would also like to see the requirements for CoC holders at mine and quarry sites that are in care and maintenance clarified and made more practical.

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Location 3831 Te Awamutu-Cambridge Road, Leamington

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CEO David Surveyor

Revenue 2017 \$1533.4m

Ownership 100 per cent farmer-owned co-operative

Description Large coal user

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