



Fw: Submission to Hazelwood coal mine fire inquiry

info to: [REDACTED]
Sent by: info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au

13/05/2014 09:34 AM

Submission

----- Forwarded by [REDACTED] /HAZELWOODINQUIRY on 13/05/2014 09:34 AM -----



[REDACTED]
09/04/2014 07:40 PM

To Hazelwood Inquiry
info/DPC@DTF
cc
bcc
Subject Submission to Hazelwood coal
mine fire inquiry

Submission:

Dear Board of Inquiry,

I am writing this submission to request that your investigation take account of the following:

1. Health effects: The health effects of the fire need to be fully understood, and the inquiry should recommend a separate public inquiry into the long-term health effects on the affected population.
2. Fire policy: If the fire prevention policy was adequate, then the fire should not have taken hold. Media reports have suggested that the fire-fighting pipes and sprinklers had been removed, which is alarming if true.
3. Origins of fire: I was shocked to learn that there are small fires in the mine that have been burning for years. The Inquiry should investigate the source of the fire, and the contributing role these "hot-spots" in the mine might have made to the outbreak of the mine fire. I also feel that the public should have access to Thermal Images, such as a photo board at the local council or at the local cfa, of Coal Fires that may occur in the future so that they do not feel that they are receiving misinformation. These should be provided by the cfa who are far less likely to doctor images in anyway.
4. Rehabilitation bond: Rehabilitation means the mine site should be left clean and safe. I am concerned that the very small rehabilitation bond for the Hazelwood mine will mean GDF Suez is less likely to properly rehabilitate the site, leaving a burden of possibly hundreds of millions of dollars to Victoria taxpayers.
5. Quality of rehabilitation: Hazelwood's mining licence requires them to

do
"progressive rehabilitation" of the mine. I am concerned that the coal in
an
area that should have been rehabilitated as it hadn't been mined for
decades
was still able to catch on fire. It suggests that existing rehabilitation
requirements were inadequate or not enforced.

6. Enforceable timelines: I think the Hazelwood Work Plan should
have
enforceable timelines for rehabilitation, to ensure disused parts of the
mine

are rehabilitated and made safe as quickly as possible.
7. Public findings: Given that this inquiry is investigating the
causes of a

major public health disaster, I feel it is important that the inquiry's
findings be made public very shortly after the completion of your report.

8. Since the Latrobe Shire Council was provided with a significant
amount of
money to assist households with the clean up of the ash that fell through
the

fires I feel that this spending should be audited to ensure that the money
has
been spent wisely and has benefited the town's people to preform clean up

safely, both inside and outside of their homes.
9. The subsequent power line failure needs to be investigated alongside

the
mine fire, it has been suggested that the lines were improperly cleaned and
this
lead to the explosion and blackout, if this is correct then the potential

for
further failures and further fires is greatly increased.

i acknowledge that my submission will be treated as a public document and
may
be
published, quoted or summarised by the inquiry.

Regards,

Tracy Cabion and Trevor Parr

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