

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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September 12, 2007

"The Employer"

Re: NBMA Article 96-105, subsection 50(1) & 50(2) of 96-105, Use of Diesel Engines Underground and Deviation request in relation to Fire Suppression Equipment

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing to acknowledge receipt of the employer's letter dated September 4, 2007, notifying the WHSCC that as a result of a damaged main compressed air line that ruptured on August 28, operations have been severely affected. The employer states in the employer's letter that there has been no production underground since that time. A repaired portion of the line was pressure tested on Friday, August 31 and another section of the stainless steel line failed. At this time, efforts are focused on isolating the upper portion of the No. 3 shaft stainless steel 16-inch diameter line so that proper repairs can be carried out.

Until repairs are complete and to allow for some production to begin the employer plans on using the following diesel equipment underground. These air compressors have no exhaust after treatment devices other than the mufflers for noise reduction.

Air Compressor, manufacturer Ingersoll Rand, powered by a Cummins diesel engine model MSX15 QSX15-600, 560 bhp, capacity of 1600 scfm with blow off protection @ 109 psi. Hydraulic oil storage capacity of 208 litres @ 725m level 19N crosscut to V4 exhaust.

Air compressor manufacturer Ingersoll Rand, powered by a Cummins diesel engine model MSX15 QSX15-600, 560 bhp, capacity of 1600 scfm with blow off protection @ 190 psi. Hydraulic oil storage capacity of 208 litres @ 850m level 86 crosscut to V4 exhaust.

Air compressor manufacturer Ingersoll Rand, Cummins diesel engine model QSL-9, 342 bhp, diesel engine certification is through CANMET DNR 1187, compressor model 1000 scfm with blow off protection @ 200 psi. Hydraulic oil storage capacity of 80 litres @ 425 12 sub 128 access to 30 m level exhaust.

The employer also indicates the following in the employer's letter:

The timeline for the use of these compressors is estimated at 30 days.

These diesel powered engines will be specifically located within a specific area of the employer's premises so that emissions of gas, particulate, and heat will be isolated and exhausted directly to the surface.

There will be no persons working downstream of these engines.

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The issue of the power rating equal to or in excess of seventy-five kilowatts will be address by the locations of the diesel units. The exhaust air circuit will be isolated and no person shall be exposed to the diesel emissions. The air compressors will be considered fixed as a result the exposure to employees will be non-existent.

It is the employer's intent to have these three air compressors continually monitored by competent personnel to ensure fueling, coolants, and other operating parameters are adhered to. All three locations will be equipped with suitable number of ABC.

Based on the information the employer has provided, and as indicated to the employer by telephone on September 5, 2007, a deviation from 50(1)(b) and (c) and 50(2) is granted for period of one month (October 12) where the matter will be reviewed by the WHSCC.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff and the JHSC Co-chairs of the decision.

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer