



DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 77

HAZARDOUS DRILL HOLE INTERSECTION

INCIDENT

In an underground mine a diamond drill hole broke through the side wall of a decline less than 2m from where the decline face was being charged with explosive.

PRIOR EVENTS

A series of relatively short diamond drill holes had been proposed, planned and approved for ore zone structure testing. Over two months later, setting up for two hole positions was not possible due to location restrictions. The geology section immediately changed the drill set up location such that the original hole targets would still be attained. The new hole designs were checked for possible intersection with an advancing decline via computer projection of the latest surveyed decline position. The drill was set up the following shift and breakthrough occurred the next day after less than 30m was drilled.

CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS

At the time of the original hole design the decline had not advanced into the drilling target area.

Checking of the drill hole **redesign** with the **latest surveyed position** of the decline was insufficient, in that a full check of the decline design would have shown that a planned direction change and recent face advance made intersection likely.

RECOMMENDATION

The mine has changed its procedures so that authorisation for actual hole collaring and commencement can be done only on a hole by hole basis after thorough checking of all the latest information.

J M Torlach
STATE MINING ENGINEER

30 May 1997

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