



MEDIA KIT

Phase Three: What happened at Pike River?

Hearings

14 November – 25 November 2011

5 December – 16 December 2011

7 February – 17 February 2012

Introduction

This media kit contains background information to help media covering the Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy Phase 3 hearings which will examine the question “What happened at Pike River?”.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Hearing timetable | |
| • November 2011 | Pages 4-5 |
| • December 2011 | Pages 6-7 |
| • February 2012 | Page 8 |
| 2. Background information on hydro-mining | Pages 9-13 |
| 3. List of Counsel | Pages 14-15 |

Phase Three Hearing Dates

Monday 14 November – Friday 25 November 2011

- examining the performance of mines' inspectors and the hydro mining systems at Pike River Coal Ltd.

Monday 5 December – Friday 16 December 2011

- examining Pike River Coal Ltd's health and safety systems and the safety culture.

Tuesday 7 February – Friday 17 February 2012

- examining the cause of the explosions and the mine systems, with a focus on the elements that contributed to the initial explosion.

The hearing timetable is indicative only. It provides guidance to participants about the general timing for witnesses to appear. The timetable may change as the hearings progress and additional applications for cross examination are dealt with by the Commission.

The hearings are scheduled to run as follows:

Mondays	11.30am-5.00pm
Tuesdays-Thursdays	10.00am- 5.00pm
Friday	10.00am- 1.00pm

The Commission may alter the sitting times as the hearings progress.

The hearings will be live streamed through the TVNZ and TV3 News websites.

Contact Details

Anna Hughes	Senior Communications Advisor
Phone	027 28 28 827
Fax	04 495 6014
Email	anna.hughes@royalcommission.govt.nz anna.hughes@xtra.co.nz
Postal	PO Box 5846 Lambton Quay Wellington 6145
Website	http://pikeriver.royalcommission.govt.nz/

Hearing Timetable – Phase Three: What happened at Pike River?

Monday 14 November 2011

9.00am	Greymouth Court open for media set up	Contact Anna Hughes 027 28 28 827
10.00am	Media briefing with Commissioners	Venue: Jury Room
11.30am	Hearings begin	
	Opening Statement	Counsel Assisting the Commission, Simon Mount

Monday 14 November – Friday 18 November 2011

External oversight of health and safety at the mine

	Witness (Counsel)	Title	Examination By:
	Michael Firmin	Health and Safety Inspector, Department of Labour	Counsel Assisting Pike Officers EPMU Families Parties granted leave
	Kevin Poynter	Former Health and Safety Inspector, Department of Labour	Counsel Assisting Pike Officers EPMU Families Parties granted leave
	Alan Cooper	Practice Leader, Health and Safety Practice Development, Department of Labour	Counsel Assisting Pike Officers Families Parties granted leave
	Kathleen Callaghan	Director, Human Factors Group, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Auckland	Counsel Assisting Pike Officers Parties granted leave
	David Stewart	Mining Consultant, Minserv Ltd	Counsel Assisting Parties granted leave

Reference to list of issues (external oversight of health and safety at the mine)

3.20 The methods employed by the regulatory agencies to facilitate and enforce compliance by the Company with legal requirements and recognised practices: a. in the pre-production period, and b. during production.

3.21 The content of instructions, and any other materials, provided by regulatory agencies to the Company for its guidance in achieving regulatory compliance.

3.22 The content of any complaints made to the regulatory agencies concerning health and safety issues at the mine.

3.23 The content of communications (formal and informal, including warnings, notices and directions) between the regulatory agencies and the Company concerning health and safety issues at the mine.

3.24 The response of the Company to such communications or complaints.

3.25 The mechanisms (if any) including any memoranda of understanding, which existed between the regulatory agencies to ensure: a. that relevant information pertaining to the mine was exchanged and shared, and b. that any issues in relation to health and safety at the mine were the subject of appropriate action

Reference to list of issues (external oversight of health and safety at the mine) – cont.

3.26 The interactions and communications between the regulatory agencies and the Company, and between the agencies, on and after the date of the incident.

3.27 The content of any performance reviews or external audits of regulatory agencies as a result of the tragedy.

3.28 The content and trend of health and safety statistics in New Zealand since 1992, both in general and in relation to mining.

Saturday 19 November – one year anniversary of the first explosion

Monday 21 November – Friday 25 November 2011

Mine systems (the hydro mining process and systems)

	Witness (Counsel)	Title	Examination By:
	Craig Smith	General Manager, Underground Mines, Solid Energy	Counsel Assisting Parties granted leave
	Masaoki Nishioka	Former Hydro Mining Operator, Pike River Coal Ltd	Counsel Assisting Parties granted leave
	Stephen Wylie	Former Deputy, Pike River Coal Ltd	Counsel Assisting Parties granted leave
	George Mason	Former Hydro Mining Co-ordinator, Pike River Coal Ltd	Counsel Assisting Parties granted leave

Reference to list of issues (mine systems)

3.7 The systems in place at the mine at the incident date for:

- achieving adequate ventilation,
- testing air quality and temperature,
- effecting methane drainage of the coal seam,
- preventing the ignition of combustible matter,
- preventing the occurrence of spontaneous combustion,
- controlling and testing for the presence of flammable gas,
- monitoring the safety of equipment and electrical systems, and
- maintaining communications between the men underground and those on the surface.

3.8 The systems in the mine and whether these:

- met legal requirements,
- complied with recognised practices, and
- were subject to periodic review.

3.9 The location, design and construction of the mine and whether these factors: a. affected the level of operational risk, and b. if so, the steps taken to manage that risk.

Monday 5 December – Friday 16 December 2011

Witness list to be issued by Monday 28 November	Available from http://pikeriver.royalcommission.govt.nz	Contact Anna Hughes 027 28 28 827 Email anna.hughes@royalcommission.govt.nz anna.hughes@xtra.co.nz
Monday 5 December 9.00am	Greymouth Court open for media set up	Contact Anna Hughes 027 28 28 827

Monday 5 December – Friday 25 November 2011

	Witnesses to address questions in relation to:	Reference to List of Issues
Monday 5 December – Friday 9 December	Company management	Management 3.5 The Company's general management structure and systems in relation to decision making (including responsibilities, accountabilities and delegations). 3.6 The Company's management systems for: a. identifying and managing risk, and b. ensuring compliance with mining law requirements and recognised practices.
Monday 12 December – Friday 16 December	Health and safety systems, compliance and impediments	Health and safety systems 3.10 The methods adopted by the Company: a. to implement, monitor and review health and safety practices in the mine, b. to test the understanding, preparedness and ability of persons engaged at the mine to implement health and safety systems and plans, and c. to amend such practices, systems and plans as required. 3.11 The training, qualifications, experience and performance of the managers and certificated employees appointed by the Company pursuant to the Health and Safety in Employment (Mining Administration) Regulations 1996. 3.12 The methods adopted by the Company: a. to ensure the reporting and recording of health and safety events and concerns, and b. to take action in relation to and record the response to such events and concerns. 3.13 The level of compliance achieved by the Company, employees, contractors and others in relation to health and safety requirements and recognised practices. 3.14 The Company's record in relation to responding to any notice or direction received from a regulatory agency.

	Witnesses to address questions in relation to:	Reference to List of Issues
		Compliance and impediments 3.18 The effect (if any) upon the Company's development, implementation and review of health and safety initiatives arising from: a. difficulties associated with the location and design of the mine, b. financial problems, c. production delays, and d. other external factors. 3.19 The effect (if any) upon the achievement of health and safety outcomes at the mine arising from: a. issues relating to the recruitment of experienced personnel, b. the terms and conditions of the employment of the men and the terms of engagement of contractors, c. the work practices in the mine of the employees and contractors, and d. incentives or disincentives (if any) to which employees and contractors were subject.
	Employees and contractors	Employees/contractors 3.15 The methods adopted by the Company to ensure that employees and contractors: a. were involved in the design, operation and review of the health and safety systems and plans, b. were provided with training in relation to health and safety in the mine, c. were competent in meeting health and safety requirements, and d. communicated health and safety events or concerns to an appropriate officer. 3.16 The steps taken by the Company to: a. engender an appropriate organisational culture in relation to the reporting of health and safety events and concerns, and b. respond to such reports. 3.17 The experiences in relation to health and safety of persons who worked or were engaged at the mine.

Monday 19 December – Wednesday 21 December

Set aside for hearings if needed

2012 Hearings – Phase Three: What happened at Pike River?

Tuesday 7 February – Friday 17 February 2012

Witness list to be issued by Monday 30 January	Available from http://pikeriver.royalcommission.govt.nz	Contact Anna Hughes 027 28 28 827 Email anna.hughes@royalcommission.govt.nz anna.hughes@xtra.co.nz
Tuesday 7 February 9.00am	Greymouth Court open for media set up	Contact Anna Hughes 027 28 28 827

Tuesday 7 February – Friday 17 February 2012

	Witnesses to address questions in relation to:	Reference to list of issues
7 February-10 February	The immediate cause of the explosion	The immediate cause of the explosion 3.1 The hazards, flammable gas and coal dust present in the mine immediately prior to and at the time of the incident. 3.2 The locations of the men within the mine and their activities at the time of the incident. 3.3 The likely ignition source. 3.4 The cause of the subsequent explosions.
13 February – 17 February	Mine systems	Mine systems 3.7 The systems in place at the mine at the incident date for: a. achieving adequate ventilation, b. testing air quality and temperature, c. effecting methane drainage of the coal seam, d. preventing the ignition of combustible matter, e. preventing the occurrence of spontaneous combustion, f. controlling and testing for the presence of flammable gas, g. monitoring the safety of equipment and electrical systems, and h. maintaining communications between the men underground and those on the surface. 3.8 The systems in the mine and whether these: a. met legal requirements, b. complied with recognised practices, and c. were subject to periodic review. 3.9 The location, design and construction of the mine and whether these factors: a. affected the level of operational risk, and b. if so, the steps taken to manage that risk.

Hydro-mining Background - Diagrams and Glossary

The November hearings will examine the hydro-mining systems and processes at Pike River Coal Ltd.

Term	Definition
Headings	Two or more roadways generally driven parallel to access different parts of the mine.
Goaf	That part of a mine from which the mineral (eg coal) has been partially or wholly removed. Generally these areas are collapsed or partially collapsed and no longer suitable for access by people or equipment. Is also called the gob. Plural term is goaves.
Grizzly	This is a term specific to Pike where the cables for the fan were taken from underground up a wide borehole to the fans. The top of the hole has a grizzly, that is, a grating, to allow the cables to pass through, so it is a specific location and gas monitoring point rather than the normal mining term.
Guzzler	The coal receiving and crushing unit which collects the flow of coal from the hydro-mining process and discharges it into steel flumes (the channel transporting the coal away from the mine)
Headings	Two or more roadways generally driven parallel to access different parts of the mine.
Hydraulic mining Hydro-monitor	Process of excavating coal with the use of high pressure water and specialised equipment. This was the planned extraction process within Pike River. The hydro-monitor is the high pressure water equipment.
Inbye	The direction towards the coal face from any point of reference.
Intake	Underground roadways that have uncontaminated/fresh air moving through them that has not yet passed a working place. Predominantly containing fresh air as it has not passed a production area, and is therefore not a return airway. Not contaminated with gas or dust.
Outbye	The direction away from the coal face from any point of reference.
Return	Any underground roadways that have 'used contaminated' air moving through them towards the surface after it has passed a mining area.

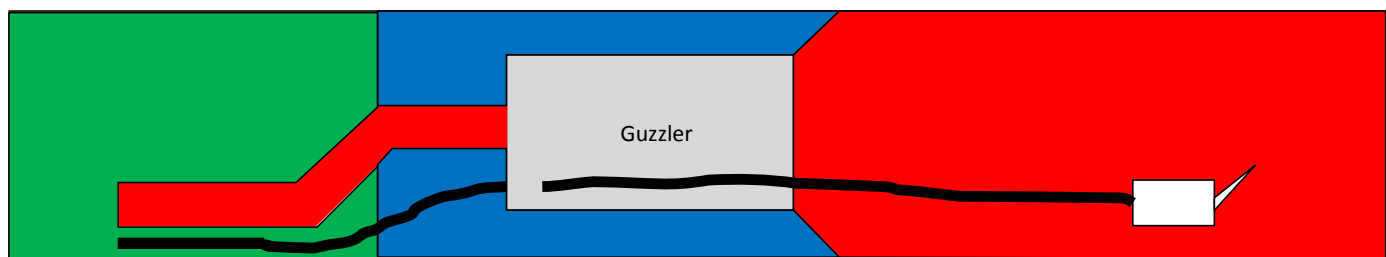
Coal Extraction at Pike River Coal Ltd

A hydromonitor at work – showing a view from the Guzzler to the Monitor. The Monitor is operated from the Guzzler. The large hose is a high pressure water supply.



A schematic View of the Monitor and Guzzler

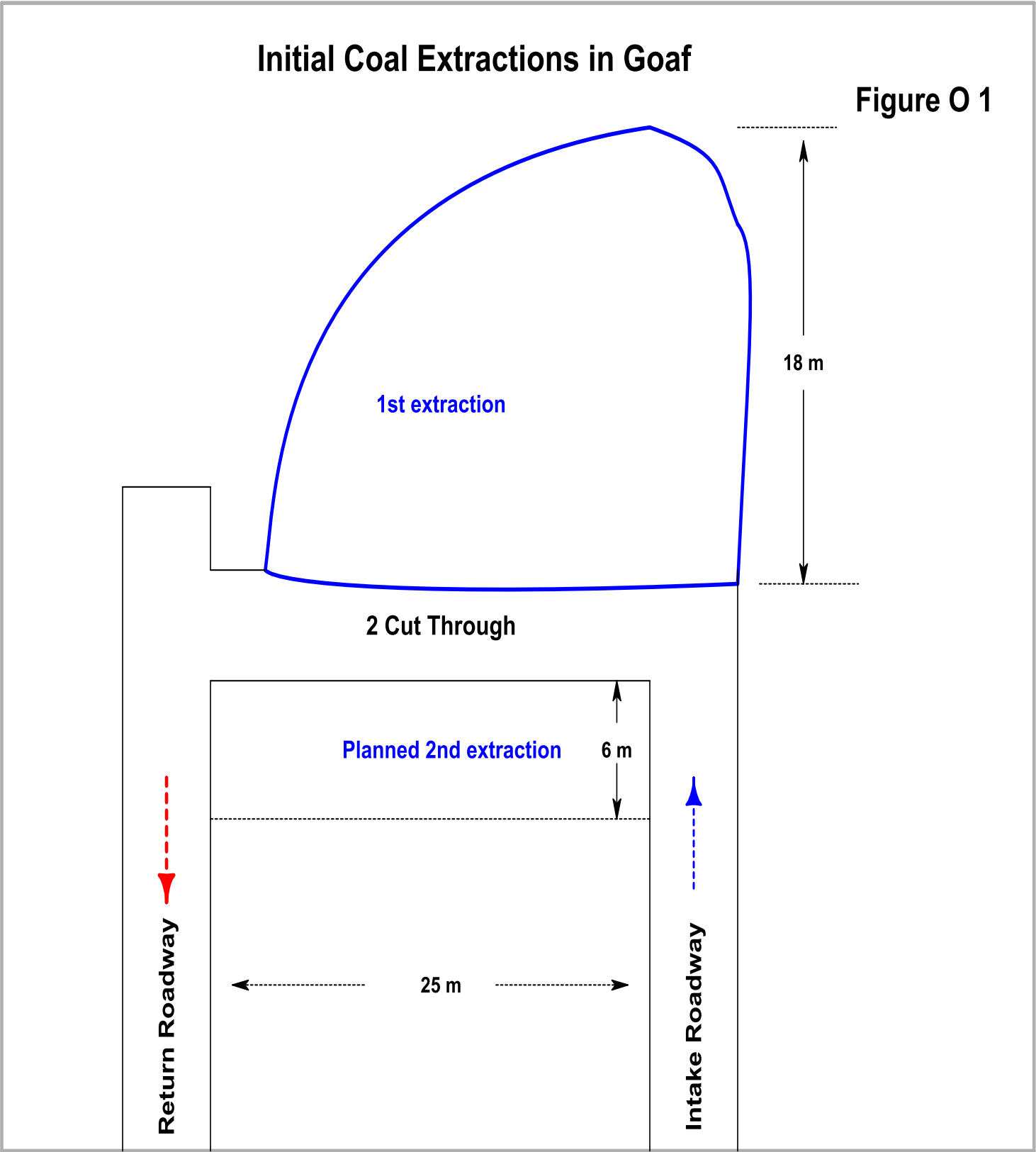
Outbye Face/Goaf Area



Red = No go area
Blue = Restricted area
Green = Non-restricted area

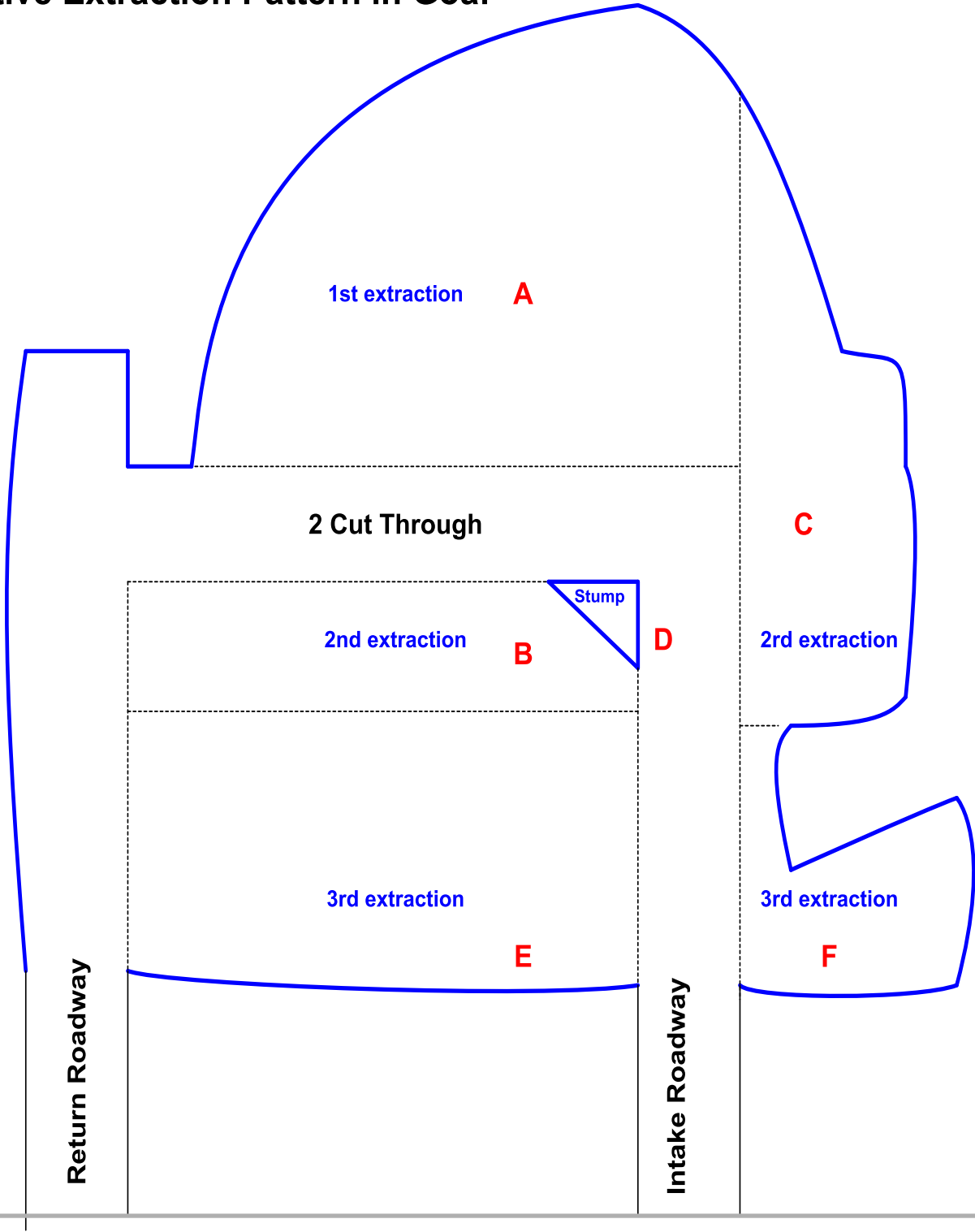
The diagrams below have been provided in evidence to the Commission and will be referred to during the Phase Three hearings.

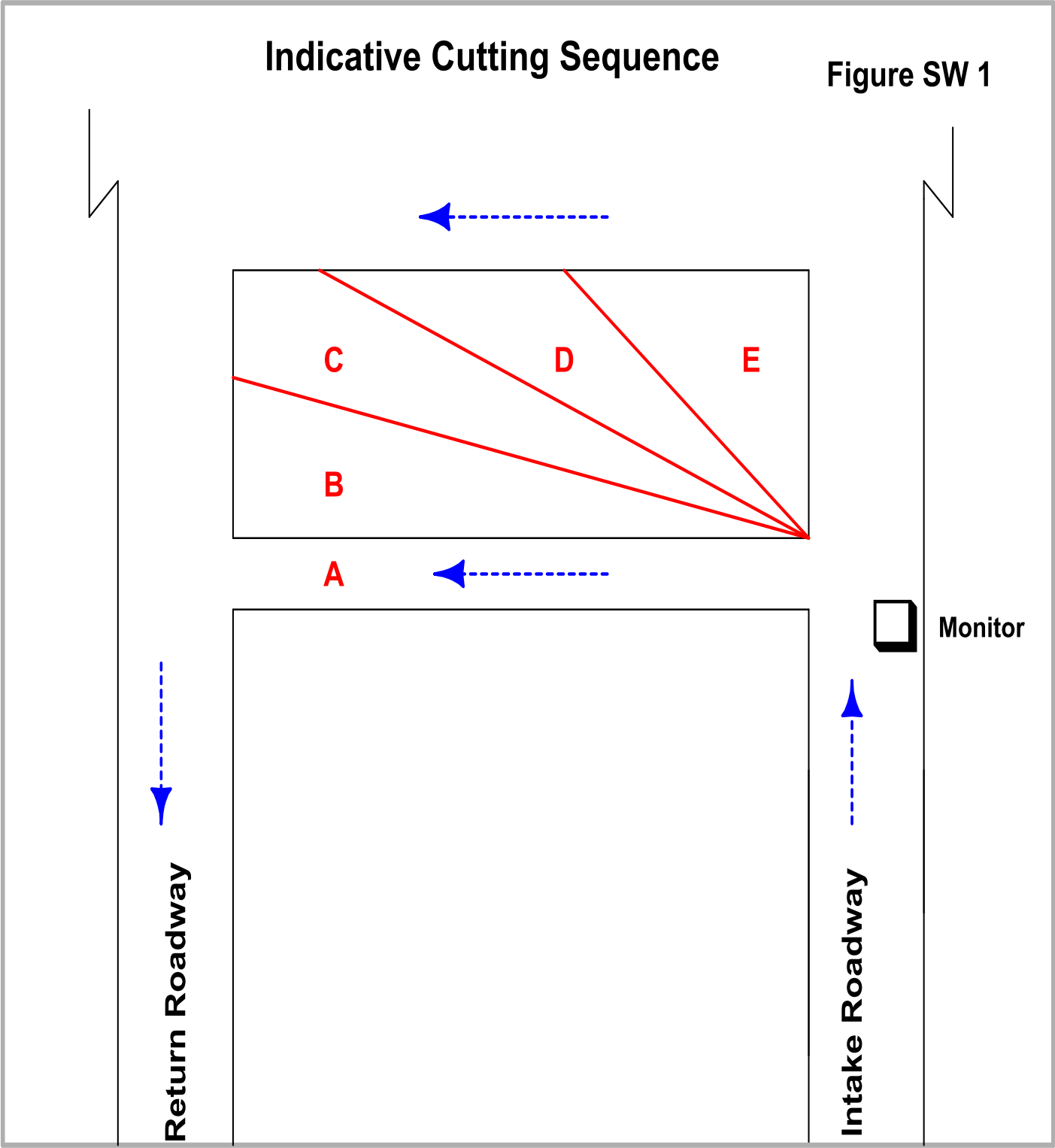
Initial Coal Extractions in the Goaf



Indicative Extraction Pattern in Goaf

Figure GM 8





List of Counsel Representing as at 9 November 2011

Name of Party	Counsel
Messrs Agarwalla, Sinha, Jagatramka & Loyalka	Michael Morrison, Angela Goodwin
Gary Campbell	Philip Hall, Kerry Cook
Coal Services Pty Limited (Mines Rescue Division)	Brian Latimour
Alexander Colligan Russell Smith Rem Markland Matthew Coll	Gregory King
CYB Construction Ltd (Chris Yeats Builders)	Brian Nathan
Department of Conservation Department of Labour Ministry for the Environment Ministry of Economic Development	Kristy McDonald QC, Aedeen Boadita-Cormican, Cameron Mander, Anthea Williams, Tim Smith
Families of the Deceased	Nicholas Davidson QC, Jessica Mills, Richard Raymond, Colin Smith
McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd	Grant Nicholson, Sarah-Lee Stead, Sophie Gilmour
Minserv International Ltd	Garth Gallaway, Jonathan Forsey, Emily Whiteside
Gerard Morris	David Butler
Terence Moynihan	Gregory King
New Zealand Amalgamated Engineering, Printing & Manufacturing Union Inc	Nigel Hampton QC, Rowan Anderson
New Zealand Coal & Carbon Ltd	Sam Hetherington, Edward Bayley
New Zealand Council of Trade Unions	Peter Cranney
New Zealand Defence Force	Major Steve Taylor

New Zealand Fire Service Commission	Robert Buchanan, Karen Clark QC
Name of Party	Counsel
New Zealand Mines Rescue Service	Garth Gallaway, Jonathan Forsey, Emily Whiteside
New Zealand Oil and Gas	Tim Stephens, Nina Blomfield
New Zealand Police	Simon Moore SC, Katherine Anderson, Kirsten Lummis
PCS Investments Nominees Ltd - (Russell-LaPorte Family A/C) & others (Shareholders)	Garry Wakefield
Certain directors, officers and managers of Pike River Coal Limited (In Receivership)	Stacey Shortall, Anna Rawlings, Andy Glenie, Duncan MacKenzie, Alison Gordon
Pike River Coal Limited (In Receivership)	Mike Colson, Fiona Tregonning
Pike River Contractors and Suppliers Group	Gregory King
Queensland Mines Rescue Service	Matthew Mallett
Tony Radford	Murray Gilbert, Angela Goodwin
Leonard Richardson	Desmond Wood
Neville Rockhouse	James Rapley, Ian Kearney
Rockwell Automation	John Billington QC
Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd	Craig Stevens, Adam Holloway
Tai Poutini Polytechnic	Garth Gallaway, Emily Whiteside
URS New Zealand Limited	Mika Austin, Michael Heron
Valley Longwall International Pty Limited (VLI)	Pheroze Jagose, Richard May
Gordon Ward	Justin Smith
Douglas White	John Haigh QC, Bridget Smith