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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Restructuring of the Deep Mined Coal Industry Advisory Committee (DMCIAC)

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Cleared by Dan Mitchell on 6 October 2003

Issue

1. Following consultation and discussion, members of the Deep Mined Coal Industry Advisory Committee (DMCIAC) have expressed the preference to reconstitute as a Mining Industry Committee.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. The Commission is invited to note the change of status of the DMCIAC.

Background

4. In September 2001 HSC agreed the administration of its various subject and advisory Committees should be devolved to HSE (HSC/01/178 refers). HSC agreed criteria to inform decisions about the future of Advisory Committees.

DMCIAC last reconstituted in 1999 and the constitution lapsed in 2002. The reconstitution process was then delayed due to consideration of the role of Advisory Committees and production of HSE guidance (GAP 2).

- At the meeting held in February 2003 the IAC Chairman announced action to begin the reconstitution process.
- Following assessment of GAP2 2.5 Indicative Criteria, DMCIAC discussed and concluded it was unlikely it would meet the criteria agreed by HSC and consideration was given to developing new arrangements, viz:
 - to change it's status from an HSC Advisory Committee.
 - to establish a new Mining Industry Committee.
 - to maintain the principles of tripartism.
 - to focus the new Committee's efforts on delivering improved control of major hazards and improving health & safety.

- to take advantage of the flexibility offered by these arrangements to reduce bureaucracy and overheads for both HSE and its members.

Argument

5. The new, more flexible, arrangements satisfy the desire of HSC and HSE to reduce the bureaucracy associated with the administration of advisory committees. Equally importantly HSE can maintain effective liaison with a major hazard industry which, whilst contracting, still needs to maintain, and wherever possible, improve its health and safety performance. Advantage will be taken of the flexibility provided by these new arrangements to include representatives of the non-coal sector.

Consultation

6. Dan Mitchell, HM Chief Inspector of Mines, Justin McCracken, DDG

Presentation

7. No handling issues.

Costs and Benefits

8. More flexible arrangements and consolidation of membership will yield small resource savings.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

9. No adverse implications – the Committee will continue to be resourced by HSE out of existing budgets.

Environmental Implications

10. None

Other Implications

11. None