

REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION OF
CHATTERLEY-WHITFIELD COLLIERY RESERVES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to examine firstly the reserves of coal that could be claimed as yet being in the take of Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery.

The examination must indicate the following :-

- (a) Whether these particular reserves are sufficiently accessible to make their extraction possible.
- (b) Whether the known seam characteristics of a given seam in the reserve area are such that it will allow the mining of that seam to be undertaken at a level of productivity required by the Industry.
- (c) Whether there are any factors extraneous to Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery that can exert an influence upon the working of known reserves.

Before this examination of reserves is undertaken a few remarks must be made of a general nature on Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery.

It is appreciated that Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery is an old colliery. Its history extends now for some 120 years from the mining of the upper seams of its take from the Middle Pit and Engine Pit shafts. It has been fortunate in this past to have had an exceptional seam density in its take and, at one time, a large labour force.

The workings in the take have been widely dispersed over a considerable area and at considerable variations in depth.

With the contraction of the Coal Mining industry Chatterley-Whitfield has had many difficulties to overcome to bring its workings into reasonable confines and concentrate its production. Because of the distances of the known reserves from the Hesketh shaft concentration is of great importance in the working of the Colliery.

RESERVES

1. In conjunction with this report is an appraisal of the remaining reserves as at May 1969 for Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery. This appraisal has been given by the Coal Board as part of the information to assist in the investigation for this report.

The consideration of reserves will be made with reference to that appraisal.

2. MOSS SEAM

An output level of 7,600 tons per week is at present demanded from the Moss Seam. This should be obtained from two faces, No. 5 South and No. 5 North, now in operation.

These faces will terminate production during 1970, possibly as early as February. Thereafter there only practically remains one face that can be easily prepared for production namely No. 6 North Moss. This face could give 4,000 to 5,000 tons of output per week but would cease production before the end of 1970.

The Moss reserves therefore are now nearly extinct and an output replacement for the Moss Seam is required for immediate development.

3. YARD SEAM

Does not satisfy the condition of practical accessibility.

4. ROUGH SEVEN FEET SEAM

The remarks on this appraisal of reserves are acceptable. It is doubtful if the Rough Seven Feet coal is a marketable commodity.

5. HAMS SEAM

A limited area of Hams coal possibly exists to the west of the dip face worked to the North of the Hesketh Crut level. This at the time of the Hams working was not considered because of co-incident working with the North Moss. Additionally, a further area south of the Brookhouse fault is now being worked from Victoria.

These reserves now do not satisfy a condition for access and must therefore be disregarded.

6. BELLRINGER SEAM

Again has no present ready access.

7. TEN FEET SEAM

In paragraph (7.2) it should be noted that these reserves are readily available to the Holly Lane Drifts. The total drivage to access is given as 470 yards plus seam drivage. The remarks in (7.3) of the appraisal concerning distances, though seemingly discouraging, are not in fact so discouraging in reality, as the Holly Lane coal already travels this route. It is a trunk conveyor system comparable to most. Its efficiency could be enhanced with further load. These reserves are of good coking propensities.

8. BOWLING ALLEY SEAM

The reserves in this seam are available between those of the Ten Feet and Holly Lane in same area to the South of the Holly Lane drifts and are similarly readily available to the Holly Lane drifts. These reserves are of good coking propensities.

9. HOLLY LANE SEAM

The main reserves in this seam are principally available to the south side of the Holly Lane drifts and are not at present being worked, nor have they recently been worked.

The experiences to present with No. 1 North Holly Lane face are yet insufficient to justify any claims being made that the Holly Lane is not a workable seam at suitable levels of productivity given the correct specification and selection of suitable equipment.

10. HARDMINE SEAM

This seam when intersected on the Holly Lane Intake drift was 55 inches. It could have significance for future development.

11. FLATTS SEAM

This seam is readily accessible to the Holly Lane Main trunk belts from the 8,300 ft. crut. It is also readily accessible for a return connection to the Bambury Main Dip. Its appearance is of an immediate weak mudstone roof and soft fireclay floor. However some seams with similar forbidding characteristics have been worked in Staffordshire Area with great success, with powered supports and double ended conveyor mounted trepanners. The ash and sulphur contents are suitably very low.

12. BAMBURY SEAM

Is available at contact in proximity to No. 12 Cockshead, and the Holly Lane drifts therefore at their outbye ends.

Its working at present would be prejudicial to the working of the immediate reserves of Ten Feet, Bowling Alley and Holly Lane, but it could have a later significance.

13 & 14. BULLHURST AND COCKSHEAD SEAMS

It is accepted that there are no immediately accessible reserves.

- 15. WIMPENNY)
-))
- 16. BRICKILN)
-))
- 17. DIAMOND)
-))
- 18. SILVER)

These would appear at present too thin for economic working.

19. BRIGHTS SEAM

It is not accepted that the further development of the seam must only be to the dip. Reserves lie at approximately pit level for three faces beyond the Brookhouse Fault towards Victoria Colliery. However, it is accepted that it is doubtful whether this coal is marketable.

The question of maintaining and enhancing the output of Chatterley-Whitfield lies in the selection of accessible suitable reserves. With the expenditure of the Moss seam in 1970 suitable replacements are demanded for some six months time. These obviously can only be provided in the Ten Feet seam to the south of the present Holly Lane Intake drift.

To prepare sufficient replacement room in time would require the immediate preparation of two such Ten Feet faces.

It must be noted that these reserves would have to be worked in correct descending sequence namely Ten Feet, and then Bowling Alley before the South Holly Lane faces could be considered. This is dictated by the three seams occurring in an interval of 144 feet. Additionally surface protection would have to be given by leaving suitable pillars on the south going faces between each panel.

The reserves would then constitute in this area three Ten Feet faces, three Bowling Alley faces, and three Holly Lane faces, with a further two Holly Lane faces to the North. With no pillars required for surface protection to the North of the drifts there is also the possibility that either two or three further Ten Feet faces could be taken from the same area as the Holly Lane, after completion of Holly Lane extraction on the North side.

The possible output levels that could be obtained are, within eighteen months time from now some 550,000 tons per annum for 3½ years and then 500,000 tons per annum for a further three years and a possible continuation of the same output level for a further two years.

This gives the colliery a further life of some 10½ years with 9 of them as a viable entity. Such a life would encourage a further examination of reserves in the Bambury, Flatts, or even deep Cockshead workings.

The exploitation of these reserves will demand that the Bambury Back Dip in time be connected from Hesketh level down to Sutton's Dip connecting with the Holly Lane Return drift. A manrider could then be equipped to ride men from the Institute Pit level to Rees's Crut and would effectively diminish the travelling time at present required for men to get to the districts in these reserves.

Additionally the Bambury Main Dip would require some further enlargement between Nos. 4 and 8 levels for return ventilation access.

ALTERNATIVE WORKING OF TEN FEET, BOWLING ALLEY AND HOLLY LANE RESERVES

Certain postulates must now be made. What if these reserves are not available to Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery? The answer to this for Chatterley-Whitfield is indeed bleak. The colliery must be facing closure within some twelve to eighteen months.

What becomes of these reserves if they are not made available to Chatterley-Whitfield? Do they become sterile? If the answer is no, then it must be assumed that they are to be worked via the 7,500 ft. horizon from Wolstanton Colliery when, or if, it is swung north west and extended for working the Ten Feet on its western flank under the old Parkhouse take. Presumably connections could be made easterly to embrace this area of reserves in the Wolstanton take.

The postulates continue. If Whitfield is denied these reserves and closure follows is the loss of output from Whitfield to be recovered or is there to be a further cut back in Staffordshire Area's contribution?

Yet a further three questions from the postulates must be asked. Itemised they are as follows :-

- (i) If the Staffordshire Area total output is to be cut back what becomes of the present Chatterley-Whitfield labour force?
- (ii) If alternatively it is intended to replace Chatterley-Whitfield output where and how is this to be done?
- (iii) From (ii) it must also follow that the question is to be posed when is it to be done? If it is not at Whitfield now, by the same token, the replacements should be available elsewhere for the Moss to finish in seven months.

CONCLUSIONS

The Holly Lane scheme in total has demanded of the Board a considerable level of investment. It has demanded much of those engaged upon it in terms of perseverance, and an ability to combat privation and arduous conditions.

What of its outcome? Was the purpose of the exercise to equip only two faces with sufficient advance to give them lives of only 40 to 45 weeks. The first was equipped with untried equipment. Was it intended that this trial be invested with the terms for the rejection of the abilities of all those at Whitfield should it not succeed? If this is the case it has indeed been a costly exercise, costly in terms of money, and costly in terms of confidence and goodwill. From it are those at Whitfield to be branded with the stigma of failure and any remaining goodwill be squandered? It is a dangerous exercise to be undertaken in the industry if any assurance of success is to remain to it.

It is difficult to avoid remarking that this is not the first abortive exercise to be undertaken at Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery. An outstanding case in many was the 8,300 ft. Horizon Crut which in 1962 was abandoned after two years of high speed drivage, abandonment in 1961 and then subsequent repair in 1962. In 1961 this crut had already made contact with the Ten Feet seam and was within 400 yards of the area now under discussion.

The other crut necessary to the 8,300 ft. horizon crut, the 8,690 feet horizon crut to be driven to the south from the Bambury-Moss crut was never finally considered. Its absence nullified the considerable

value that the drivage of the 8,300 ft. crut could have had.

The two principal resources of the Mining Industry are its manpower and its reserves. The continuation of this investigation must be directed to ensuring that neither are abused.

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GAH/BB

23rd May, 1969

CW/P/13

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

STAFFORDSHIRE AREA

CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD COLLIERY

APPRAISAL OF REMAINING RESERVES AS AT MAY 1969

GENERAL

- 1.1 The remaining reserves at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, except for some very thin seams, are all to the West of the shafts and the biggest proportion of them between 2,000 to 4,000 yards from the pit bottom. The measures dip to the West and a considerable proportion of the reserves are below a depth from the surface of 1,000 yards.
- 1.2 The Chatterley Whitfield 'take' is bounded on the North side by Victoria 'take' to the East by the outcrop of the seams, to the South by the Norton and Wolstanton 'takes' and to the West by a barrier against flooded old colliery workings in part and the Harcastle Canal Tunnel protection area.
- 2.1 MOSS SEAM
This seam is the first workable seam in the North Staffordshire Coalfield succession available to the Chatterley Whitfield shafts. The projected position of the seams outcrop is 500 yards west of the Hesketh Shaft. The outcrop is not evident across the Chatterley Whitfield 'take' and there is no evidence of shallow workings. It is assumed from this evidence that the seam has thinned so as to become non-existent at the surface.
- 2.2 Underground provings up to a distance of 1,500 yards West of the Hesketh Shaft show a maximum thickness 26 inches.
- 2.3 The seam has been worked at Chatterley Whitfield continuously since 1954 to the present time from a contact made by the Hesketh level 2,550 yards West of the Hesketh Shaft. The Hesketh level is a near level road which extends from a pit bottom at a depth of 650 yards to the Moss Seam. At the above contact the seam was 57 inches thick and in parts of the worked area has thickened to 66 inches.
- 2.4 At the present time two faces are being worked from the bottom of dip roads in the seam which extend 1,000 yards from the Hesketh Level at an average dip of 1 in 7.
- 2.5 The remaining reserves west of the bottom of the dip are expected to be severely faulted and have sharp changes in gradient associated with a syncline so as to make them difficult to work economically using modern methods.
- 2.6 An area of reserves immediately above the Hesketh Level has been proved by workings in other seams to be severely faulted and the thickness of the seam is expected to get less than the 57 inches proved at the Hesketh Level.
- 3.1 YARD SEAM (Little Row)
This seam was worked in an area above the Hesketh Level in recent years with very limited success. The full thickness in the worked area varied from 26 inches to 37 inches. The seam is subject to washouts and very wet conditions. The thickness of the seam at the Hesketh Level contact is 33 inches, there are no further provings within the Chatterley Whitfield 'take'. Provings at neighbouring Norton and Victoria Collieries indicate no increase in thickness above the 33 inches.
- 4.1 ROUGH SEVEN FEET SEAM
This seam has not been worked at Chatterley Whitfield. Provings of the seam by boreholes and crut contacts show that it has a thickness varying from 24 inches to 42 inches and to be of poor quality.

cont.

5.1 HAMS SEAM

This seam was worked in an Area above the Hesketh Level in recent years by mechanised means but had to be abandoned because of poor results brought about by difficult roof conditions and changing seam thickness.

5.2 A further small area was worked below the Hesketh Level but had to be abandoned because of a washout.

5.3 Further provings within the Chatterley Whitfield 'take' show that the seam is in two leaves, the bottom leaf existing in only a small part of the 'take'.

5.4 The seam is being worked at Victoria Colliery to the north of Chatterley Whitfield 'take' and here both leaves exist. The seam has also been worked on the south side of the 'take' at Wolstanton (Sneyd Area) and here only the top leaf of 30 inches existed.

6.1 BELLRINGER SEAM

This seam was worked in an area above the Hesketh Level in recent years by machine cut and hand filling methods the thickness being 42 inches. Results were poor owing to very difficult roof conditions.

6.2 An attempt has been recently made to work the seam at neighbouring Victoria Colliery with powered supports and power loader without success and the attempt has been abandoned.

7.1 TEN FEET SEAM

The reserves in this seam to the rise side of the Hesketh Level have been worked. The latest workings in the seam were from the contact at the Hesketh Level and were abandoned because of the excessive make of water and the associated poor roof conditions.

7.2 The remaining reserves in this seam are below the Hesketh Level and available to the recently driven Holly Lane Drift.

7.3 To develop a face it will be necessary to drive two cross measure drifts from the Holly Lane development rising at 1 in 4, one 260 yards long and the other 210 yards plus the drivages in the seam. The coal haulage route from this face would be down the 1 in 4, 260 yards drift, along the level Holly Lane Drift for 820 yards, up the 1 in 3 Cockshead Dip for 1,500 yards and along the Hesketh Level for 800 yards to the pit bottom, a total distance of 3,380 yards. It is expected that the working section over all the remaining area will be at least 60 inches.

8.1 BOWLING ALLEY SEAM

The reserves in this seam to the rise side of the Hesketh Level have been worked. The latest workings in the seam were from the contact with the Hesketh Level and were abandoned because of extremely difficult roof conditions.

8.2 The remaining reserves in this seam would be accessible to the pair of 1 in 4 drifts required for the recovery of the Ten Feet Seam and the coal would travel the same route as the Ten Feet.

8.3 The thickness of the seam where last worked was 46 inches but the remaining area is crossed by a band of unknown extent where the seam thins considerably. The probable section in the remainder of the area is expected to be 42 inches.

9.1 HOLLY LANE SEAM

Reserves in this seam to the rise side of the Hesketh Level have been worked, and an area below the Hesketh Level down to the level of the new

Holly Lane drivage has also been worked.

- 9.2 A face is being worked in this seam using powered supports and a Gleithobel Plough. The thickness of the coal on this face varies with a maximum thickness of 46 inches, the variations being caused by a fluctuating sandstone roof.
- 9.3 There is no evidence to show that the conditions and varying thickness will be any different in the remainder of the reserves.
- 9.4 The route for the output from this seam is the same as indicated for the Ten Feet Seam.
- 9.5 The depth from the surface of the present face is approximately 1,000 yards and the remaining reserves are all to the dip side of this face,
- 10.1 HARDMINE SEAM
- The reserves in this seam to the rise side of the Hesketh Level have been worked, and a small area below the level.
- 10.2 Access to the remaining reserves can be made by dip cross measure drifts from the Holly Lane Level but the major portion of them are deeper than 1,000 yards.
- 10.3 The seam has not been worked at Chatterley Whitfield with power loaders and supports. A recent attempt to work it by these methods was made at Wolstanton Colliery and had to be abandoned because of very poor results.
- 10.4 A seam thickness of 43 inches could be expected over most of the area, but there is evidence to show that this might thin to the south of the area.
- 10.5 A major problem would be the disposal of the output from this seam. While there is a market for the smalls the large coal would not find a ready market and would probably have to be crushed.
- 11.1 FLATTS SEAM
- This seam has not been worked at any deep mine in the North Staffordshire Coalfield. It had been contacted at various points within the Chatterley Whitfield 'take' and the thickness proved to vary from 28 inches to 39 inches.
- 12.1 BANBURY SEAM
- This seam has been worked extensively both above and below the Hesketh Level the average working thickness being 42 inches. In the latest workings which were on the downthrow side of the High Lane Fault the seam thickness increased and a working section of 52 inches was taken. Associated with this thickening of the seam were two rider coals coming in close to the main leaf.
- 12.2 The remaining reserves are available to the Cockshead Dip but extensive developments would be required to work the seam particularly on the return airway side. The depth of the reserves is 1,050 yards to 1,200 yards.
- 13.1 COCKSHEAD SEAM
- This seam has been worked extensively both above and below the Hesketh Level, the average working thickness being 72 inches. It was last worked in 1945 and abandoned because of transport and ventilation difficulties the workings having reached a depth of 1,100 yards.
- 13.2 Part of the Main Dip in the seam has been enlarged and is being used as

an Intake and coal transport road for the working of the Holly Lane Seam.

- 13.3 The remaining reserves are all below a depth of 1,100 yards and extend to a depth of 1,250 yards. To work them would require an extension of the possible developments required for the Banbury.
- 14.1 BULLHURST SEAM
This seam has been worked extensively both above and below the Hesketh Level, the average working thickness being 54 inches.
- 14.2 An extensive re-development of the seam beyond the High Lane fault was carried out in recent years from which one face was worked. This face finished production in January, 1969. The area developed has proved to be severely faulted and any extension of the development drivages would have to negotiate faults of considerable throw. The remaining reserves are all at a depth in excess of 1,100 yards.
- 15.1 WINPENNY SEAM
This seam has not been worked at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery. It has been exposed by drifts and boreholes and has a thickness ranging from 21 inches to 26 inches.
- 15.2 A small area was worked at neighbouring Victoria Colliery, where the thickness was 34 inches, many years ago.
- 16.1 BRICKILN SEAM
Not worked at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery. Provings show a thickness ranging from 24 inches to 33 inches with high ash and sulphur content.
- 17.1 DIAMOND SEAM
Not worked at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery. Provings show a thickness ranging from 24 inches to 29 inches.
- 17.2 A small area was worked at neighbouring Victoria Colliery, where the thickness was 38 inches. These workings ceased in 1961 on economic grounds.
- 18.1 SILVER SEAM
This seam is contacted at pit bottom level and an attempt was made at Chatterley Whitfield in 1964/65 to work it. The thickness of the seam on the face was 28 inches. Further provings by boreholes show thicknesses of 18 and 21 inches.
- 19.1 BRIGHTS SEAM
This seam is contacted at pit bottom level and a considerable area was worked in the period 1922 to 1958 to the dip down to a depth of 1,000 yards.
- 19.2 Since that time until the end of 1968 faces have been worked above the pit bottom level for training purposes.
- 19.3 The full thickness of the seam varies from 34 to 40 inches and it has an abnormally high sulphur content of approximately 5% which causes marketing difficulties.
- 19.4 Further development of the seam could only be to the dip and would require a pair of drivages some 1,500 yards long to work reserves more than 1,000 yards deep.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD

CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD COLLIERY

WHITFIELD COLLIERY:

Whitfield was formerly one of the hamlets in the large parish of Norton-in-the-Moors. Originally it was farm land, mainly agricultural and today possesses some of the oldest farmhouses in the district - 16th and 17 century.

Coal has been mined in Norton for several hundred years. The monks of Hulton Abbey came to Ridgeway for coal in the 14th and 15th centuries.

There was a small colliery at Ridgeway before Whitfield commenced.

The original Whitfield Colliery - a small undertaking was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the present colliery and on the west side of Ball Green. Definite knowledge of the present site goes back to about 1863 - Bellerton Lane. Earlier records concerning the original colliery are printed in the "Gentlemen's Magazine" of October 1816, which said, "Coal abounds in the Parish and mined at various depths."

The principal works are Ford Green / Whitfield / Bemersley. At the former place the price is: 5d. per cwt. or 8s. 4d. a ton.

Proprietors at this time were the Executors of the W. Harrison. In 1852 Hugh Henshall Williamson who resided at Greenway Bank was working C'Head 7' Bank on two footrails at Ridgeway. Williamson worked westwards and the shafts were sunk, two of them were named Prince Albert - known as the Albert Pit, the other named the Laura, which was later widened and deepened.

The shafts on the present site were sunk by Mr. Williamson in 1863. A Colliery at Tunstall, the Pinnox Colliery was working at the same time and owned by the same gentleman.

The three pits existing were the Engine Pit, Middle Pit - known as Ragmans, and a shaft 80 yards deep on the site of the present Institute Pit.

In 1867 the company was formed and traded as Whitfield Colliery Co., Ltd., with a capital of £25,000.

The concern did not flourish long. It was sold and bought by Charles Homer on behalf of the Chatterley Iron Co., who had ironstone pits and owned furnaces at Chatterley.

Homer persuaded the Iron Co., to purchase the Colliery. They did, hence Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, which has existed 90 years.

From this time the colliery commenced to develop a tunnel which was cut to get coal away to the main line to Longport.

Chief Seams: Cockshead, Hardmine, Holly Lane, Bowling Alley.

1881. Explosion at Institute Pit. 24 men lost their lives.

1886. E.B. Wain came as Manager. Colliery developed during next 25 years rapidly.

1886. 900 men - Output 7000 tons.

1911. 3200 men - Output 21000 tons.

1937. Colliery produced 1,000,000 tons.

In the late 1920's the Colliery suffered badly - fear of closure. New directors found with money. 1934 onwards many new buildings.

- (1) New Boiler Plant
- (2) Extension of Generating Plant
- (3) New Underground Machinery

1912 - Winstanley Pit Sunk

1915 - Hesketh Pit Sunk

Gave access to a number of new seams.

From 1937 onwards, throughout the 2nd. World War years right up to the time the mines were nationalised the Colliery continued to flourish and was the largest single colliery in the N.Staffs coalfield maintaining a manpower between 2,500 and 3000 men who were producing an output varying between 22,000 and at times 30,000 tons weekly.

After Nationalisation it continued as the largest local colliery until the advent of the new sinkings at Hemm Heath, the concentration of the Wolstanton, Sneyd and Deep Pit mines and the concentration at the Florence mine, producing between 1/6 and 1/7 of the Area Output.

From roughly 1956 onwards its fortunes began to fall; manpower gradually decreased and output fell rapidly by 1959 to around the 14,000 and 15,000 tons weekly. This was due solely to extremely difficult geological conditions and the loss entirely of the 10 feet and Old Whitfield seams. This downward trend continued until October 1965 and during the last two years of this period a considerable loss of money was sustained and manpower steadily dropped to its present number of about 1,550 men, output falling at times as low as 7,000 saleable tons.

However, from October 1965 onwards the perseverance of policy, the increased mechanisation coupled with an improvement in the geological conditions and sustained combined efforts of the Management and workmen the corner was at last turned so much so that the Colliery is again enjoying prosperity.

It's output now is nearing the 15,000 tons saleable mark at a consistent O.M.S. of over 40 cwts. which is some 2 cwts. over the Area average and is the most efficient yield in the whole history of the Colliery.

In 1959 when the Colliery was last consistently around the 15,000 tons mark, roughly 2,400 men were employed, today the same output is being achieved by 1,550 men.

Today's output is being achieved from four full production faces and one training face. In 1959 there were 12 full production faces and one training face in operation.

The seams now being worked are the Moss, two faces, which produces about 7,000 tons, the Bullhurst, one face, producing 3,000 tons, the Yard Coal producing 3,750 tons and the Brights Training Face producing 1,000 tons.

These seams will be in operation for the next 7 to 8 years, when they will be replaced by development of Holly Lane, Cockshead and Bellringer seams.

The Colliery has foreseeable reserves of coal for at least the next 30 years and by increasing mechanisation the present rate of output should be at least held in spite of the inevitable fall off in manpower.

Each of the present coal faces excepting the training face are mechanised, the coal being won by means of either disc shearer machines or trepanner shearing machines. The faces are supported by hydraulic roof supports set manually. It is anticipated in the near future that the hydraulic supports will be power operated, thus, combating the falling manpower still further.

COMPOSITE AGE STRUCTURE OF CHAT WUIT VICTORIA WOLSTANTO AS AT 30-6-73

DESCRIPTION	16	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	SUB	55	60	SUB	TOTAL
	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	TOTAL	60	65	TOTAL	TOTAL
COLLIERY OVERTIEN				1	2		2	8	13	3		3	16
OVERTIEN			1	2	4	6	13	7	33	4		4	37
DEPUTIES 1			2	13	9	12	3	31	98	29	3	32	136
DEPUTIES 2			1		4	3	4	6	18	3	1	4	22
SHOTFIRERS													
OTHER W.P.I.S.		1	3	6	9	6	16	13	54	21	8	29	63
FITTERS	2	13	14	14	11	9	12	9	84	5	4	9	93
ELECTRICIANS	6	36	21	10	4	10	9	2	98	4	3	7	105
OTHER CRAFTSMEN	4	24	9	10	17	31	32	27	154	26	10	36	190
N.P.L.A + 3 rd STRUCTURE	1	21	54	70	104	70	116	122	558	43	10	53	611
OTHERS UNDERGROUND	19	43	41	35	42	57	139	188	563	158	78	236	199
TOTAL UNDERGROUND	31	138	146	161	206	204	374	413	1613	296	117	413	2086
SURFACE	33	10	10	11	21	31	60	74	255	73	61	134	389
JUVENILES	42								42				42
OTHERS	43	2	2	1			3	2	53	2	2	4	57
TOTAL SURFACE	123	12	12	12	21	31	63	76	350	75	63	138	488
TOTAL	154	150	158	173	227	235	437	489	2023	371	180	551	314

AGE STRUCTURE WOLSTANTON AS AT 30 6-73

DESCRIPTION	16	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	SUB	55	60	SUB	TOTAL
	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	TOTAL	60	65	TOTAL		
COLLIERY OVERTMEN							1	5	6	1			1	7
OVERTMEN				1	2		7	3	13	2			2	15
DEPUTIES 1				1	2	3	14	13	33	15	1		16	49
DEPUTIES 2			1		3	3	4	6	17	3	1		4	21
SHOT FIRERS														
OTHER W.P.I.S.				3	3	1	6	8	21	8	5		13	34
FITTERS	1	3	7	6	3	4	8	2	34	3	4		7	41
ELECTRICIANS	3	16	8	6	2	5	2	2	44	2	1		3	47
OTHER CRAFTSMEN	3	12	5	7	9	15	13	10	74	13	4		17	91
N.P.L.A + 3 rd STRUCTURE	1	7	29	29	31	20	48	68	253	22	5		27	280
OTHERS UNDERGROUND	4	26	24	18	26	37	74	83	292	62	35		97	389
TOTAL UNDERGROUND	12	64	74	71	101	88	177	200	787	131	56		187	974
SURFACE	21	3	4	4	8	10	32	34	116	37	31		68	184
JUVENILES	14								14					14
OTHERS	17	2	2	1			3	1	26		1		1	27
TOTAL SURFACE	52	5	6	5	8	10	35	35	156	37	32		69	225
TOTAL	64	69	80	76	109	98	212	235	943	168	88		256	1199

ACE Structure Victoria AS At 30-6-71

DESCRIPTION	16	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	SUB	SUB	60	SUB	TOTAL
	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	TOTAL	60	65	TOTAL	TOTAL
COLLIERY OVERTMEN					1			1	2	1		1	3
OVERTMEN				1		3	2	1	7				7
DEPUTIES 1			1	4	2	6	7	6	26	7	2	9	35
DEPUTIES 2													
SHOTFIRERS													
OTHER W.P.I.S.			1	1	3	2	2	1	10	6	2	8	18
FITTERS		3	4	6	3	2	1	1	20				20
ELECTRICIANS		9	8	4	1	4	4		30				30
OTHER CRAFTSMEN		2	1	3	3	9	9	6	33	7	5	12	45
N.P.L.A + 3 rd STRUCTURE		3	5	24	27	19	29	30	137	15	4	19	156
OTHERS UNDERGROUND	9	10	3	3	7	3	8	26	69	32	29	61	130
TOTAL UNDERGROUND	9	27	23	46	47	48	62	72	334	68	42	110	444
SURFACE	10	4	2	2	3	11	15	13	60	17	19	36	96
JUVENILES	16								16				16
OTHERS	12								12	2	1	3	15
TOTAL SURFACE	38	4	2	2	3	11	15	13	88	19	20	39	127
TOTAL	47	31	25	48	50	59	77	85	422	87	62	149	571

AGE STRUCTURE CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD AS AT 30-6-73

DESCRIPTION	16	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	SUB	55	60	SUB	TOTAL
	21	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	TOTAL	60	65	TOTAL	TOTAL	
COLLIERY OVERMEN				1	1		1	2	5	1		1		6
OVERMEN			1		2	3	4	3	13	2		2		15
DEPUTIES 1			1	8	5	3	10	12	39	7		7		46
DEPUTIES 2					1				1					1
SHOT FIRERS														
OTHER W.P.I.S.		1	2	2	3	3	8	4	23	7	1	8		31
FITTERS	1	7	3	2	5	3	3	6	30	2		2		32
ELECTRICIANS	3	11	5		1	1	3		24	2	2	4		28
OTHER CRAFTSMEN	1	10	3		5	7	10	11	47	6	1	7		54
N.P.L.A + 3 RD STRUCTURE		11	20	17	26	31	39	24	168	6	1	7		175
OTHERS UNDERGROUND	5	7	14	14	9	17	57	79	262	64	14	78		280
TOTAL UNDERGROUND	10	41	49	44	58	68	135	141	552	97	19	116		668
SURFACE	7	3	4	5	10	10	13	27	79	19	11	30		109
JUVENILES	12								12					12
OTHERS	14							1	15					15
TOTAL SURFACE	33	3	4	5	10	10	13	28	106	19	11	30		136
TOTAL	43	50	53	49	68	78	148	169	658	116	30	146		804

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - STAFFORDSHIRE AREA

Colliery Review
20th February, 1973

Chatterley-Whitfield Colliery

1. Colliery Results

A summary of results in recent years and a projection for the current year is as follows:-

Year	Output	OMS	Profit/(Loss)	
			Amount	Per Ton
	000 tons	cwts	£'000s	£
1968/69	450	30.2	(703)	(1.56)
1969/70	416	34.0	(258)	(0.62)
1970/71 388	388	35.9	(307)	(0.79)
1971/72	344	38.3	(783)	(2.28)
1972/73 Projection	318	33.3	(1,181)	(3.71)
+ Better				
- Worse	- 157	- 20.0	-1,043	-3.42

2. Mining

Three advancing faces are being worked. After promising start two Hardmine faces have been affected by pillar edges, thinning coal, changes in gradient and soft floor and results have been disappointing. Banbury face has been affected by faulting throughout the year and a heating. This face is planned to finish in December 1973. The colliery will then work three Hardmine faces. The prospects therefore are extremely discouraging.

Marketing

Problems exist in marketing all products due to:-

- (a) inherent quality of Hardmine seam;
- (b) extraneous dirt

Main product untreated smalls to Meaford - ash content sometimes +20% even when blended with washed smalls. Large and graded coals have high ash and poor characteristics - not attractive to domestic or industrial markets. All markets highly vulnerable - coal only sold consistently in times of shortage.

4. Manpower

Throughout the year manpower has been on course for the budget of 840 on books at March 1973 and no shortages are anticipated. Cumulative recruitment for year is 58 (including 7 juveniles) and wastage 105 (including 46 redundancies). Absence in December quarter was 13.8% but in January this rose to 20.9%.

5. Conclusion

The colliery has had consistently poor results and severe mining and marketing problems continue.

The Area has for some time considered ways of working the remaining reserves in the "Northern Complex Area", one of these alternatives envisaged the uprating of these

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - STAFFORDSHIRE AREA

COLLIERIES REVIEW
5TH. MAY, 1973.

CHATTERLEY-WHITFIELD COLLIERY

1. Colliery Results

Year	Output	O.M.S.	Profit/(Loss)	
			Amount	Per Ton
	'000 tons	cwts.	£'000	£
1969/70	416	34.0	(258)	(0.62)
1970/71	389	35.9	(307)	(0.79)
1971/72	344	38.3	(783)	(2.28)
1972/73	300	31.8	(1,304)	(4.35)
+ Better - Worse than Budget	- 175	- 21.5	- 1,167	- 4.06
1973/74 Budget	430	46.2	(681)	(1.58)
April (Month)	21787	30.3	N/A	N/A
+ Better - Worse than Budget	- 7213	- 9.8	£161.500	£3.86

The 1973/74 Budget requires in a normal week, unaffected by holidays, an Output of 9,500 tons. The Profit for 1973/4 as shown is provisional only.

2. Mining

Three faces in operation (two in the Hardmine and one in the Banbury). Results continue to be very disappointing, and although 1s North Hardmine is being replaced the prospects are still not encouraging. The Banbury face has been shortened back to avoid faulting in the main gate end, but problems remain on this face.

3. Marketing

Cobbles and nuts are now crushed because they are not fit for domestic sale. This has, however, improved the quality of the untreated smalls. Arrangements are being made to add back graded and +5" coal as well. The present inability to load m.g.r. wagons remains an impediment to marketing as Meaford Power Station is the only outlet.

4. Manpower

Manpower is currently at the budgeted level of 845. Total recruitment for 1972/73 was 108, including 7 juveniles, with wastage of 146 including 46 redundancies. Voluntary wastage for the March quarter was 17 compared with 8 in the previous quarter. Total absence for the March quarter was 17.2%.

5. Conclusion

Following a disastrous year, the first month of the current year shows that the pit is totally unable to meet the modest agreed budget. These results cannot be acceptable and certainly could not be allowed to continue in the future. It is clear that the future prospects for this colliery must take into account the total reserves available in the 'Northern Complex' area. But this should be the subject of a reconvened meeting set for Tuesday, 22nd. May, 1973.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - WESTERN AREA

COLLIERY REVIEW
9TH APRIL, 1974

COLLIERY CHATTERLEY
WHITFIELD

1. Colliery Results

YEAR:	OUTPUT	O.M.S.	Cost of Production Per Ton	PROFIT/(LOSS)	
				Amount	Per Ton
	'000 Tons	Cwts.	£	£'000s	£
1969/70	416	34.0	6.39	(145)	(0.36)
1970/71	389	35.9	7.40	(198)	(0.51)
1971/72	344	38.3	8.80	(671)	(1.94)
1972/73	300	31.8	11.46	(1203)	(4.01)
1973/74 Budget	430	46.2	8.46	(411)	(0.96)
JANUARY CUM. 1974 (ACTUAL)	231	34.6	11.50	(974)	(4.21)
+ Better - Worse than Budget	- 113	- 10.9	- 2.93	- 595	- 3.11
YEAR 1974/75 PROBABLE BUDGET	250	38.8			

2. Mining

A poor start has been made since the resumption, with outputs of only 2,203 tons (first week) and 4,050 tons (second week), compared with an October average of 7,600 tons/week. 1's South Hardmine is satisfactory but 2's North was affected by faulted conditions and has had to be stopped. This will be replaced by 4's North during May, 1974. The coal in advance of 1's South Hardmine is expected to thin and it is anticipated the face will stop about September. The Colliery will then operate with one face only. The connection is due to be completed in mid 1975, when the remaining output from the north faces will be transported underground to Wolstanton.

3. Marketing

Normally a one-product pit. However, domestic coal produced during aftermath of strike. Crushing re-commenced on 1st April, 1974.

4. Manpower

The recruitment figure for the financial year 1973/74 was 20. This includes eight juveniles. The wastage figure for the same period was 144, of which 69 were voluntary and 23 redundancies.

The number of men on books at the beginning of the year 1974/75 was 712 and it is planned to reduce the number of men to about 550 by September, 1974, and possibly to 530 by March, 1975.

5. Conclusion

The mining situation, described above, is in accordance with the plans laid before the last joint review meeting held on 10th July, 1973. There has been no significant change since that time.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - WESTERN AREA

COLLIER REVIEW

16th July, 1974

COLLIERY: CHATTERLEY
WHITFIELD

1. COLLIERY RESULTS

	OUTPUT	O.M.S.	Cost of Production Per Ton	PROFIT/(LOSS)	
				Amount	Per Ton
	'000 Tons	Cwts.	£	£'000s	£
1969/70	416	34.0	6.39	(145)	(0.36)
1970/71	389	35.9	7.40	(198)	(0.51)
1971/72	344	38.3	8.80	(671)	(1.94)
1972/73	300	31.8	11.46	(1203)	(4.01)
1973/74	249	33.6	12.29	(1250)	(5.03)
1974/75 BUDGET	250	38.8			
April 1974 Actual	18	29.2	15.54	(115)	(6.57)
May 1974 Actual	19	31.7	15.18	(116)	(6.10)

2. Mini

2's North Hardmine finished at the end of March and 1's South Hardmine was treble shifted until the introduction of 4's North Hardmine during the latter part of May. Due to the thinning seam section, 1's South will finish in August.

The drivage from Wolstanton to connect with the Hardmine has now been driven for 46 yards.

3. Marketing

Very high ash in R.O.M. smalls during last Quarter.

4. Manpower

During the period 1st April to 15th June, 1974, the manpower has reduced from 702 to 631. Seven workmen transferred to other pits - two have left voluntarily, two for medical reasons, and ten workmen accepted redundancy. Absenteeism since the beginning of April has averaged 10.1%.

Further adjustments in manpower levels will be made in accordance with the Northern complex proposals.

5. Conclusion

The figures still show large losses. Results were somewhat better when the 2nd face (4's North) started in May; however, 1's S. Hardmine continues to reduce in height and must cease production in August. Endeavours have been made to seek agreement with the N.U.M. for the transfer of a number of men to other local collieries when 1's South face ceases production. It is now important to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - WESTERN AREA

COLLIERY REVIEW : 12TH AUGUST, 1975

COLLIERY : CHATTERLEY
WHITFIELD

1. COLLIERY RESULTS

	OUTPUT	O.M.S.	Cost of Production Per Ton	PROFIT/(LOSS)	
				Amount	Per Ton
	'000 Tons	Cwts.	£	£'000s	£
1970/71	389	35.9	7.40	(198)	(0.51)
1971/72	344	38.3	8.80	(671)	(1.94)
1972/73	300	31.8	11.46	(1203)	(4.01)
1973/74	249	33.6	12.29	(1251)	(5.03)
1974/75	246	38.5	15.83	(1326)	(5.39)
1975/76 BUDGET	204	49.8	19.49	(649)	(3.18)
APRIL, 1975 Actual	16	34.9	23.68	(95)	(5.90)
MAY, 1975 Actual	16	33.5	26.31	(170)	(10.47)
JUNE, 1975 Actual	15	29.8	29.30	(172)	(12.04)

2. MINING

Reduction in output on 4's North Hardmine has been caused by cutting soft floor dirt, associated A.F.C. chain troubles and, in recent weeks, faulted conditions. The face is due to finish in August, to be replaced by 5's North Hardmine.

3. MARKETING

R.O.M. ash exceptionally high. 2½ thousand tons of Victoria graded required each week to be blended at Chatterley Whitfield in order to make coal saleable.

4. MANPOWER

The number of men on books at 26th July, 1975, was 512, which was 4 less than at the beginning of the financial year.

Absenteeism for the period averaged 12.6%.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5's North Hardmine will be available for production before 4's North Hardmine is scheduled to cease production. If faulted conditions affect 4's North then 5's North will come into production.

Major repair work on the main Dosco Dip intake roadways took place in the period; this affected performance in the Chatterley Whitfield/Wolstanton connection.

A Re-convened Colliery Review Meeting should now be held during September to discuss the details relating to the changes required when the coal is transported to Wolstanton.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - WESTERN AREA

COLLIERY REVIEW - 4TH NOVEMBER, 1975

COLLIERY: CHATTERLEY
WHITFIELD

1. COLLIERY RESULTS

	OUTPUT	O.M.S.	Cost of Production Per Ton	PROFIT/(LOSS)	
				Amount	Per Ton
	'000 Tons	Cwts.	£	£'000s	£
1970/71	389	35.9	7.40	(198)	(0.51)
1971/72	344	38.3	8.80	(671)	(1.94)
1972/73	300	31.8	11.46	(1203)	(4.01)
1973/74	249	33.6	12.29	(1251)	(5.03)
1974/75	246	38.5	15.83	(1326)	(5.39)
1975/76 BUDGET	204	49.8	19.49	(649)	(3.18)
JUNE QUARTER 1975 Actual	47	32.7	26.32	(437)	(9.37)
JULY 1975 Actual	9	22.8	39.51	(224)	(24.65)
AUGUST 1975 Actual	10	22.4	34.59	(196)	(19.15)
SEPT. 1975 Actual	20	40.6	17.07	(119)	(5.87)

2. MINING

4's North Hardmine suffered from bad roof and soft floor prior to being replaced in early September by 5's North Hardmine. Results from the new face are encouraging, the colliery produced 6,470 tons in W.E. 20th September for a fresh overall O.M.S. record of 54 cwts. 5 shifts were lost at the colliery in W.E. 2nd August, 1975, due to winding gear repairs. Work continues on the connection to Wolstanton for completion during December, 1975.

3. MARKETING

Quality improving with new face.

4. MANPOWER

There are no manpower problems at the pit. Discussions are still continuing on the reduction of manpower to 397 in January, 1976.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The colliery is currently about 7,000 tons behind phased budget. A 6' fault on 5's face is causing some difficulties. The Wolstanton connection is on schedule.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD - WESTERN AREACOLLIERY REVIEW: 15TH NOVEMBER, 1976COLLIERY: CHATTERLEY
WHITFIELD1. COLLIERY RESULTS

	OUTPUT	O.M.S.	COST OF PRODUCTION PER TON	PROFIT/(LOSS)	
				AMOUNT	PER TON
	'000 Tons	Cwts	£	£'000	£
1971/72	344	38.3	8.80	(671)	(1.94)
1972/73	300	31.8	11.46	(1203)	(4.01)
1973/74	249	33.6	12.29	(1251)	(5.03)
1974/75	246	38.5	15.83	(1326)	(5.39)
1975/76	195	34.8	24.78	(1529)	(7.84)
1976/77 BUDGET	218	50.7	19.89	515	2.26
JUNE QUARTER, 1976 Actual	36	30.6	32.03	(430)	(11.92)
SEPT. QUARTER, 1976 Actual	23	23.6	39.07	(474)	(20.20)
OCTOBER 1976 Actual	14	35.5	25.04	(57)	(4.05)

2. MINING

The single face in production, 5's North Hardmine, suffered from bad roof and faulting throughout the September quarter. Better face conditions are now evident and results in recent weeks have been much improved. The face is planned to be replaced by 3's South Holly Lane towards the end of the financial year.

3. MARKETING

The quality of the Hardmine seam is causing difficulties in the coal preparation plant at Wolstanton. This is primarily due to poor roof conditions resulting in the machine cutting dirt so as to form a coal roof. There is also evidence that the inherent quality is deteriorating.

4. MANPOWER

Wastage during the period was 28, including 18 redundancies. Absenteeism averaged 11.3%.

5. CONCLUSION

At a meeting held with the Midland Area N.U.M. Branch on 3rd November, 1976, it was agreed that the plan for working the Ten Feet Seam, via the 8,300 horizon, was not practicable. Alternative plans were also tabled and subsequently circulated which were concerned with the working of the total reserves of the Wolstanton/Chatterley Whitfield take.

It is clear that if viability is to be achieved for the complex, the Holly Lane Face would be better manned by the men travelling the Wolstanton shafts and, certainly, the future plans depend on the Chatterley Whitfield development men working in the Parkhouse and Cockshead areas at Wolstanton. The manpower implications of this are set out in a separate manpower brief for the North Staffordshire collieries.