

# CAUTION

Name of the mine : Juna Kunada Opencast Mine

Owner of the Mine : M/s Western Coalfields Limited

Date and time of the dangerous occurrence : 01.12.2017, 01:05 AM

Prima facie cause of the dangerous occurrence : On 27.11.2017, minor cracks (01-02mm) were observed at 172mRL overburden bench of the mine. 06 excavators were deployed on overburden benches below 172mRL. The machineries were withdrawn and deployed at black cotton soil benches above 172mRL as a precautionary measure. On 28.11.2017, 29.11.2017 and 30.11.2017 widening of cracks up to 05cm and formation of fresh cracks at 160mRL and 150mRL benches were observed. However keeping these cracks under observation, the extraction of coal in the pit was continued. On 01.12.2017 at about 01.05 am (3<sup>rd</sup> shift of 30.11.2017), 10-12 overburden benches failed and slide down. Benches/slope failed from 172mRL, where cracks were first observed on 27.11.2017. Benches of 550m width at bottom (56mRL) and about 50m width at top (172mRL) failed for a height of about 110m. Due to sliding of benches, the coal bench at the bottom and immediate overburden bench above coal seam heaved up for a height of about 15 to 20mtr.

At the time of incidence 04 nos of excavators, 08 tippers, 01 dozer, 02 drill machine and 01 service van along with 30 persons were present in the pit. Except one drill machine, all the machines got trapped in heaving of floor. However no machine was buried under debris but got tilted or toppled due to heaving. All the supervisors and excavator operators were provided with walkie-talkie. At the first instance of sensing slide/ movement of strata, all were alerted to run away. All persons escaped safely except 03 persons who received minor injuries.

Prima facie the incidence (Dangerous Occurrence) occurred due to geological disturbances i.e. multiple faults.



**CHECK & STOP RECURRANCE IN FUTURE**

