

KCGM Media Release
6 February 2008

Subsidence in Super Pit

KCGM recorded the start of a subsidence at the southern end of the Super Pit on the Chaffers West Wall on Monday the 28th January 2008. The area has been monitored for movement since mid 2005, and a close watch put in place since December 24th 2007.

On Sunday morning, 3rd February, a slip of weaker oxide clay material subsided as expected, in an area of the pit that had already been closed after the predicted failure occurred on January 28th.

“Subsidence or slips are not uncommon in open cut mining, and pit wall stability is carefully and continually monitored with range of monitoring systems by our Geotechnical Department,” said Kapila Karunaratna, KCGM Mining Manager.

“The precision of the monitoring allows slips to be predicted well in advance, so sufficient warning can be given.”

No employees were in the area at the time of either event, and an alternative access to the Chaffers pit had already been established in preparation for the slip. As a result, production in the pit has not been affected by the occurrence.

Although some dust from the subsidence was visible from Boulder, it is not believed to have exceeded KCGM’s statutory limits, and continues to be closely monitored.

“KCGM plans to remove the unstable oxide material on the southern end of Chaffers once the area is deemed safe,” said Mr Karunaratna.

*For further information please call KCGM Community Relations Manager
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