

DRI-GEL EXPLOSIVES

(A new paper-packaged explosive)

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ABSTRACT

With the steady decline in the production of dynamites throughout the world, a gap appeared in the market which could only be adequately filled by rigid paper packaged explosives. To fill this need, the Dri-Gel technology, which is the subject of this report, was developed.

The development of this technology is discussed together with the first field trials conducted at Minas de Almagrera, S.A. at Sotiel Coronada in Spain. In these trials the product was compared directly to our own high energy dynamite. These trials showed that this new product performed nearly as well as the dynamite product, and significantly better than emulsion products at the same venue.

The use of unit charges in overcoming the problems associated with overcharging in deep level gold mines is investigated and an explanation is offered as to why these have not been supplied or used in greater numbers in the past. A brief report of a trial with Dri-Gel unit charges at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine is presented.

Finally a trial with Dri-Gel product in a ring drilling operation is also briefly reported.

From the trials we conclude that there are distinct advantages for this technology over existing Water Based and Dynamite technologies and we close with a look at its future prospects.