

AIRDEK: AN UPDATE

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ABSTRACT

Since its introduction by Atlas Powder Company in late 1986 as a means of highwall stabilization in surface coal mines (1), applications of the basic AirDek (2) blasting technique have multiplied rapidly.

As the authors note in this paper, AirDek techniques have been adopted in dimensional stone production, road and utility construction, site work, quarrying, surface and underground mining, and tunnel work.

The paper offers detailed information on the AirDek applications which are considered to have broadest potential usage in the explosives-consuming industries. These include vibration control, fines reduction, shooting for rip rap, ore-waste separation, control of inadequate burden and fly rock prevention, controlled buffer shooting, dimension stone production, and prevention of overbreak in tunnel perimeters and underground pillars.

Illustrations will show typical drilling and blast designs, explosives loading recommendations and guidelines, and economic evaluation of conventional AirDek techniques.