

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group meeting on 23 March 2017

1. Industry research study participant

Members noted that research and development members of the nDPM Working Group had recently given a briefing to industry representatives who had expressed 'in principle' interest about participating in the proposed research. Additional information requested at that meeting has been provided, and potential participants will make a decision about participating in April 2017.

Industry funding has also been invited to enable expansion of the research to more than one site.

2. Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia funding proposal

Members noted that DMP will sponsor the proposed study of the mining operational aspects of nDPM. DMP funding will be supplemented by a conditionally approved Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) research grant. To meet MRIWA's conditions, a revised grant application has been submitted and engagement of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists will be sought.

The research will generate datasets on nDPM number and dimension, take real-time measurements of gaseous components, and use tracer gas technology to study flow and dispersal behaviour of nDPM under various atmospheric conditions.

Subject to MRIWA approval and identification of a suitable mine, the project will commence in April 2017, with on-site data collection expected from August 2017.

3. Medical research proposal

Members noted that DMP will sponsor a concurrent study of the health effects of nDPM on underground mine workers. Questionnaires will capture demographic, and occupation and medical history information, from approximately 100 individual workers across a range of occupations and activities. Participants will be fitted with diesel monitoring equipment during their shift and undergo a variety of pre and post shift health measurements.

Union representation on the Working Group will be sought prior to commencement of the study.

4. Measurement of diesel particulates

Members discussed that the accepted exposure limit of $0.1\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ may not be an appropriate method for measuring health risks to underground mine workers. Members discussed international studies of worker exposure to diesel exhaust and agreed links to these will be published on the DMP website. The proposed Western Australian research will compare behaviour and health effects of nDPM to quantify the hazard, identify sources of concern and direct future activity.

5. Cancer Council factsheet – Diesel engine exhaust

Members noted the factsheet *Cancer Council Occupational Cancer Risk Series – Diesel engine exhaust* which discusses occupational hazards relating to diesel engine exhaust exposure, and provides risk management guidance about minimising exposure.

6. Next meeting: 29 June 2017

For further information on the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group, please email RSDCommittees@dmp.wa.gov.au.