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Dear Phil,

ASSESSMENT OF SUBSIDENCE IMPACTS ON DISUSED TELSTRA LINE - LONGWALLS W1-W3 AT ULAN COAL MINE

As requested by Craig Bagnall, please find herein our assessment of the likely subsidence impacts on the buried Telstra line that crosses Longwalls W1-W3 at Ulan Coal Mine. This buried line is no longer used and the residence that it serviced has been abandoned and vandalised. We understand the condition of the line is officially known as "left in situ".

Our assessment indicates that there is some potential for mining subsidence to cause damage to the buried cable so it would be necessary to provide an alternative service if the line were required to remain active. However, given its current status, there would not appear to be any reason to mitigate potential damage by uncovering the cable or providing an alternative service. If after subsidence is complete, the line is required to be made serviceable, it could be tested and repaired as necessary or replaced completely depending on an assessment of its condition at that time.

In general, maximum subsidence of up to 1600mm is expected in the central part of each longwall panel with 400-800mm expected over the chain pillars isolated between adjacent panels. Maximum systematic horizontal strains are expected to reach 5-10mm/m and maximum systematic tilts of 10-20mm/m. Higher peaks of strain and tilt may be possible in areas of steep topography and areas influenced by geological structures. The average angle of draw of about 18-20° and goaf edge subsidence (over solid ribs) of about 100mm are expected.

Experience elsewhere suggests that cables in good condition are able to accommodate strains of up to about 20mm/m without damage. The systematic horizontal strains of 5-10mm/m anticipated over Longwalls W1-W3 at Ulan would therefore not be expected to adversely impact on the buried cable. However, peak strains of up to 20mm/m have been measured at some locations over previous panels at Ulan and the condition of the Telstra cable is not known, so there may be some potential for damage.

If you have any queries or require further clarification of any of these issues, please do not hesitate to get back to me.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Mills', with a large, stylized loop at the top.

Ken Mills
Senior Geotechnical Engineer