

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 1/15/16 2:56 PM  
 Received: January 10, 2016  
 Status: Posted  
 Posted: January 15, 2016  
 Tracking No. 1k0-8nbe-f74z  
 Comments Due: January 15, 2016  
 Submission Type: Web

**Docket:** MSHA-2013-0033

Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines-Request for information

**Comment On:** MSHA-2013-0033-0038

Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines

**Document:** MSHA-2013-0033-0039

Comment from Peter Capon, Department of Mines and Petroleum

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## General Comment

Mines in Western Australia (WA) originally required steel pipework supplying air to a refuge chamber underground. This became more difficult to comply with as mines started using polypipe reticulation and subsequently provided compressors on Jumbo's at some mines. Many of the refuge chambers installed U/G in WA are now operated as stand alone units supplied either using C/A bottles attached to the refuge chamber or more recently using submarine style oxygen candles and Co2 scrubbers to maintain a healthy atmosphere within the refuge chamber during the emergency.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum in Australia have developed a useful guideline on providing refuge chambers underground. Here is the link to the document on the DMP webpage.

[http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Safety/MSH\\_G\\_RefugeChambersUGmines.pdf](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Safety/MSH_G_RefugeChambersUGmines.pdf)

AB 79-COMM-12

1/15/2016