1970. No. 127 **[C]**

COAL AND OTHER MINES

Precautions against Inrushes

REGULATIONS, DATED 1ST JUNE, 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER SECTION 120 OF THE MINES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1969.

WHEREAS in pursuance of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(a) the Ministry of Commerce has published notice of its intention to make the following regulations and has not received any objection to the draft thereof in respect to which it is required to refer the draft regulations for inquiry and report:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ministry of Commerce in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 120 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Precautions against Inrushes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970.

Application

2. These regulations shall apply to every mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, and in these regulations "mine" means such a mine.

Interpretation

3. In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

"the Act" means the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969;

"mine" has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation 2;

"the Ministry" means the Ministry of Commerce.

4.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of section 75 of the Act, no working which is approaching and within one hundred and fifty feet of the surface shall be carried on in any mine, unless the manager has sufficient information about the nature of the material between the working and the surface to determine whether it may cause danger to persons working in the mine:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply where there is another working or a disused working vertically above the working in question at a distance not less than thirty feet or five times the thickness of the seam to be worked whichever is the greater.

(2) No working shall be carried on at any place in any mine if there is evidence that within one hundred and fifty feet thereof there may be any peat, moss, sand, gravel, silt or other material that is likely to flow when wet,

(a) 1969, c. 6 (N.I.).

unless the manager of the mine has sufficient information to determine the nature, position, thickness and extent thereof.

(3) No working shall be carried on at any place in any mine if there is evidence that within one hundred and fifty feet thereof there may be any rock or stratum containing or likely to contain water (whether dispersed or in natural cavities) unless the manager of the mine has sufficient information about the nature or position thereof to determine that it is not dangerous to persons working in the mine or sufficient information about the nature, position, thickness and extent thereof to determine whether it may cause danger to such persons.

5. Without prejudice to the generality of section 77 of the Act, no working which—

(*a*) is approaching and within one hundred and fifty feet of the surface; or

(*b*) is within one hundred and fifty feet of any peat, moss, sand, gravel, silt or other material that is likely to flow when wet; or

(*c*) is within one hundred and fifty feet of any rock or stratum containing, or likely to contain water (whether dispersed or in natural cavities) not being rock or stratum which by reason of its nature or position is not dangerous;

shall exceed ten feet in width, unless the manager has given to the Ministry notice of his intention to work to a greater width and the Ministry has within thirty days, by notice served on the manager, consented to that working exceeding ten feet in width.

6. Without prejudice to the generality of section 77 of the Act, no working which is approaching and within one hundred and twenty feet of any place containing or likely to contain an accumulation of water or material that flows when wet of any disused workings, not being workings which have been examined and found to be free from accumulations of water or material that flows when wet, shall exceed eight feet in width, and in respect of any such working the manager shall ensure that boreholes are at all times maintained in advance near the centre of the working of a length not less than fifteen feet and on each flank at intervals not exceeding fifteen feet.

7. The manager of every mine shall ensure that no person carries out any work, other than work necessary for the preservation of the mine or for the sinking of a shaft or the driving of an outlet from the surface, in any working in the mine within sixty feet or ten times the height of the working (whichever is the greater) of—

(*a*) any peat, moss, sand, gravel, silt or other material that is likely to flow when wet; or

(*b*) any rock or stratum containing or likely to contain water (whether dispersed or in natural cavities) not being rock or stratum which by reason of its natural position is not dangerous;

except in accordance with special regulations applicable to that mine.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland this 1st day of June 1970 in the presence of

(L.S.) *J. H. Armstrong,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations impose duties upon managers of mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale and fireclay in regard to the taking of precautions when workings are carried on within certain specified distances of the surface, of deposits of peat, moss, sand, gravel, silt or other material that is likely to flow when wet or of any rock or stratum containing or likely to contain water, or of any disused workings. In some cases (specified in regulation 4) working is prohibited unless the manager is in possession of certain information about the material below the surface which may affect the workings.