

Case Study GrouTech— Borehole Filling



Filling of old exploration drill holes in the Surat & Bowen Basins

Throughout the Western Queensland Coalfields, there have been thousands of holes drilled to test the quality, size and depth of the coal reserves. There are literally hundreds of drill holes that have yet to be filled. Many of these were drilled decades ago and may prove difficult to locate.

Common industry practice of late, is to fill the holes after they have been tested. However the backlog of old holes pose a threat.

The potential problems and hazards associated with open bore holes include;

- Hazard to stock, native fauna

- Contamination of ground water

- Gas emissions that have the potential to ignite

The task remains to locate historical records in order to determine the number and location of holes. This will require considerable time and resources, in particular, because the old holes may need clearing / redrilling to ensure they are properly filled.

GrouTech (Aust) Pty Ltd continue to assist various mines to clear and fill these holes.