

22

ccol.

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 7 August 1984

P. W. ...

Pit categories

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
Working normally	35	10
Turning some coal	7	2
Some men present	4	-
On strike/picketed out	91	25

Attendances at all the Nottinghamshire pits back from holiday is better than yesterday.

Bilston Glen in Scotland again has 40 men in.

However Frances (Scotland) and High Moor (N. Derby) have lost the handful of men who turned up yesterday.

Attendance at Bolsover is down to 177 men - the drift away is probably in anticipation of the pit holiday which begins next week.

Coal Movements

Yesterday 112,000 tonnes of coal were moved. This is approaching the level achieved before the Notts pits went on holiday.

Train movements to power stations remain depressed. 13 coal trains ran yesterday, 5/6 less than hoped. BR expect to run 15/16 today.

There are two problem areas: ASLEF and NUR headquarters are believed to be applying intense pressure on railwaymen at the Coalville and West Houses depots to black coal trains. BR's proposal to close the West Houses depot (currently the subject of consultative proceedings) and to move the men to the (more militant) Totton depot is also a factor.

The NCB are therefore relying increasingly on road transport in the Midlands area. Of the 86,000 tonnes of coal moved from there yesterday, 71,000 went by road.

Department of Energy officials will be meeting BR, the NCB and CEGB to consider ways of easing the situation.

Law and Order

There are 1000 pickets at Markham in N. Derby (8 men in).

600 pickets at Gedling in Notts (but attendance there better than yesterday)

Parkside (Lancs) has 300 pickets, against the 1200 who created disturbances yesterday.

In South Wales there are 50 pickets at Garw pit, and a further 50 at the home of the single man who reported for work yesterday.

There have been several reports of violence and vandalism at other locations: a fairly typical Tuesday, in fact.

Industrial relations

The NUM are holding a special delegate conference on Friday.

The background to this is Scargill's recent threat to consider widening and extending the strike, and the further attempt by the NUM leadership to legitimize the new disciplinary rules declared void by the High Court last month.

Action in the Courts

Two faceworkers at Manton pit in Yorkshire have issued writs against the NUM seeking orders for a national ballot. A preliminary hearing of the case will take place in the High Court tomorrow.

Other Issues

Serious situation at Hunterston/Ravenscraig. See letter from SOS for Trade dated 6 August.

Line to Take

Increasing signs that many miners recognise there are no industrial grounds for the dispute, and wish to disassociate themselves from violence and intimidation being undertaken for political ends.

(Avoid direct comment on Yorkshire miners' legal action).

Distribution: Members of MISC 101; Mr Gregson (Cabinet Office)

Enquiries: Michael Reidy, PS/SOS for Energy 211 6070