



SOLID ENERGY

Coals of New Zealand

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Drillforce New Zealand Ltd

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To Whom It May Concern

The Solid Energy Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Project has utilised Drill Force extensively over the last four years for a wide range of drilling and drilling related tasks. Key tasks have been:

- Drilling and coring exploration wells
- Drilling and installing instrumentation wells with up to 7 piezometers and geophones and 4 bladder pumps
- Drilling Seismic Shot holes
- Drilling Shallow water bores
- Drilling and completion of UCG process wells
- Assisting with testing, dewatering and coal removal from the base of process wells

In all of these tasks I have found that Drill Force has been able to provide an excellent service, they have assisted from planning the drill programme, through procurement drilling, installation of any downhole equipment and site rehabilitation where required. In each of these steps they have been proactive in providing their own services and where required bringing in equipment or services from other contractors. Their range of experience, knowledge, creativity and contacts has been invaluable in bringing to completion the more difficult of these tasks.

I have also been very impressed by Drill Force's response when things do not go according to plan; they have certainly gone the extra mile in seeking to get back on plan as quickly as possible whatever the reason for the problems. They have been quick to acknowledge when any problems have been of their own making and very fair in establishing costs. Due to the amount of novelty and uncertainty around much of the work, we have worked extensively on an hourly rate basis and their work ethic and reporting systems have allowed this to work well from a budgetary viewpoint.

Over the years of working with Drill Force I have seen them investing heavily back into the company in more efficient drilling and pumping equipment and more importantly in staff. They have a core of very experienced drillers who are out on the rigs rather than in the office and they are training a lot of younger guys who are learning off the older ones and becoming very competent drillers in their own right.

Drill Force have a good culture from the Health and Safety and Environmental viewpoints and on the odd occasions where their systems have not been quite in line with Solid's they have happily complied with our systems.

The UCG pilot plant development has been a huge learning experience for Solid Energy and has resulted in a very demanding drilling programme. In every situation Drill Force and Bruce in particular has been able work with us to find a way round the problems we have faced. This can-do attitude runs right through the company, many good suggestions have come from some of the drillers, whilst sticking to an agreed program they are always ready to suggest a better way of doing things or to stop and ask if deviations occur.

Overall I have found Drill Force to be very professional, yet friendly and working with them has been an enjoyable and encouraging experience.

Rick Dobbs

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