

Quinsam Coal Corporation, an Underground Coal Mine Using ITT Flygt Explosion Proof Pumps

Quinsam Coal Corporation, owned by Vancouver-based Hillsborough Resources Ltd., operates the Quinsam Mine. The mine, located near Campbell River on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, produces a high quality thermal coal for power generation and cement plants. Quinsam Coal Mine started as a small open pit operation in 1987. The underground mine went into production in 1990. The open pit mining stopped in 1994, and all activity has been in underground mining since then. Today the mine produces 360,000 tonnes per year with 45 employees dedicated to production and maintenance.

The pumps and all electrical apparatus used in an underground coal mine need to be specially designed and approved for an explosion proof application. ITT Flygt has a line of drainage pumps that has the EMR approval by CANMET (Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology) for use in underground coal mines. The pumps are specially designed with an enclosed motor that will contain an explosion, so that it will not ignite the mine atmosphere. The so-called explosion proof enclosure is designed with tight openings that will cool the hot burning gases before they can come into contact with the external atmosphere.

Quinsam owns over 25 ITT Flygt EMR approved pumps. This collection of pumps, which ranges from 5.4 to 58 HP, complies to different pumping requirements. The pumps are used close to the drilling face as well as in pump sumps. The ITT Flygt pumps have proven over a long period of time their excellent performance and reliability. In addition, the repair and maintenance of the pump fleet is done by the ITT Flygt sales location in Vancouver.