



## Topic: “CHALLENGES, RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION IN DEEP UNDERGROUND MINING”.

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## Tema: “CHALLENGES, RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION IN DEEP UNDERGROUND MINING”.

The paper will review the challenges, and in some cases, extreme risks commonly encountered when mining at great depth in hard, brittle rock masses. For context, mining at great depth is assumed to imply mining at depths in excess of 1,000 m below ground surface. The author has experience working with mines extending in excess of 3,000 m below ground surface. The paper will focus primarily on rock engineering risks [e. g. very high rock stresses; rock bursting; ground support; hole squeeze; ore pass erosion/failure; etc.]. The paper will also address risk due to extreme temperatures, [e. g. heat stroke; extremely hot water; etc.], commonly associated with mining at great depth as this can pose serious risk to mine personnel. Potential risk mitigation measures, [e. g. instrumentation; dynamic support; exclusion zones; re-entry times; destress blasting; automation; etc.], and the present limitations of such techniques, will also be discussed. Associated risks [e. g. infrastructure damage; cost control; etc.] will be briefly touched on. In addition, the paper will demonstrate that many of these same risks can be encountered in much shallower mines if an appropriate mine design is not selected.



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