

Weaver, Chris A - MSHA

From: Gates, Richard A - MSHA
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2007 8:20 AM
To: Weaver, Chris A - MSHA
Cc: Weaver, Chris A - MSHA; Baxter, Derek - MSHA; Smith, Gary E - MSHA; Crawford, James B - MSHA; O'Donnell, Joseph R - MSHA; Zelanko, Joseph C - MSHA; Gauna, Michael - MSHA; Gates, Richard A - MSHA; Morley, Thomas A - MSHA; Williams, Timothy S - MSHA; Watkins, Timothy R - MSHA
Subject: FW: Additional Statement Information

Pls add to Donnie's interview folder.

From: Durrant, Donald E - MSHA
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 2:55 PM
To: Gates, Richard A - MSHA
Subject: Additional Statement Information

Richard,

As we talked earlier, there were a few issues that I failed to bring up during my interview regarding the Crandall Canyon Mine efforts. I would like to clarify the following;

- 1- Supervisors Ted Farmer, Bill Taylor and Don Gibson were all supportive of the effort and did their best to see that things were done safely and correctly.
- 2- I believe allowing family visitors and the press/media into the recovery area exposed them persons and others to unnecessary hazards.
- 3- There appears to be a lot of emphasis about the use of the "Rock Props" as the support system of choice during the rescue effort. I have to admit that I did not know of a more viable support system that could or should have been used to protect miners working in this area. As I see it, the mine roof was not our greatest concern..... It was the potential for additional pillar bursts, which I know of no technology to adequately protect persons from these types of events. Some members of our Tech Support staff were troubled after the second event on August 16, 2007 as to whether some other support system should have been used. Looking back, I believe that we put our best foot forward, considering the circumstances and the time we had to react, in the effort to attempt to reach and rescue the six trapped miners.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald E. Durrant