



AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE

BETWEEN

THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful mining operations and enhanced homeland security in the United States. MSHA and IUOE hereby form an Alliance to use their collective expertise to help foster a culture of prevention and preparedness by sharing best practices and technical knowledge.

MSHA and IUOE agree to establish an Alliance to promote safe and healthful working conditions for mine workers and to enhance homeland security by:

- Embracing mine safety and health performance goals with objective performance metrics.
- Collaborating on mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials emergency response techniques.
- Providing the mining community with information, education and training, and technical assistance to help prevent injuries and illnesses and protect miners' safety and health.
- Expanding outreach and communications on mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials emergency response techniques.

MSHA and IUOE will work together to achieve the following education and training goals:

- Develop training and education programs on mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials response techniques.
- Develop and share best practices and effective approaches to improve mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials response.

- Optimize use of MSHA's National Mine Health and Safety Academy and IUOE's International Environmental Technology and Training Center.

MSHA and IUOE will work together to achieve the following technical assistance goals:

- Conduct evaluations of applied engineering to improve mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials response.
- Conduct analyses to identify potentially hazardous conditions or situations to which the Alliance should direct particular attention and resources.

MSHA and IUOE will work together to achieve the following outreach and communication goals:

- Develop and disseminate information on mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials response techniques at conferences, events, or through print and electronic media, including links from MSHA's and IUOE's Web sites.
- Speak, exhibit, or appear at conferences, meetings or other events and proactively address mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials response issues.

MSHA and IUOE will work together to achieve the following goals related to promoting the national dialogue on mine safety and health and homeland security:

- Raise others' awareness of and demonstrate their own commitment to mine safety and health and homeland security whenever MSHA or IUOE leaders address groups.
- Share information on best practices and effective approaches, as jointly determined by MSHA and IUOE, with others in the mining industry through individual or joint outreach and through MSHA- or IUOE-developed training programs and materials. Promote the implementation of these practices and approaches through print or electronic media, at conferences or by other means of outreach.
- Perform mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials emergency response case studies and publicize their results through print or electronic media, promotion at conferences, or other means of outreach.
- Convene or participate in forums, round table discussions, or stakeholder meetings on opportunities to help forge innovative solutions to mine and disaster rescue, recovery and hazardous materials emergency response challenges or to provide input on such issues.

An implementation team made up of representatives of both organizations will meet to develop a plan of action, determine working procedures, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, they will meet at least quarterly to track and share information on activities and results in achieving the goals of the Alliance.

Unless otherwise extended, this agreement will remain in effect until December 31, 2004. Either signatory may terminate it for any reason at any time, provided they give 30 days written notice. This agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of both signatories.



1-20-04



Dave D. Lauriski
Assistant Secretary of
Labor for Mine Safety
and Health

Date

Frank Hanley
General President
International Union of
Operating Engineers

Date