




MEMORANDUM FOR GEORGE M. FESAK  
Director of Program Evaluation and  
Information Resources

FROM: DAVID G. DYE   
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Internal Review of MSHA's Actions at the Sago Mine

On January 2, 2006, an explosion occurred in the Sago Mine resulting in the deaths of 12 miners and severe injury to another miner. Consistent with established Agency policy, I am directing you to initiate an internal review of MSHA's actions at the Sago Mine. Your review shall compare actual Agency performance at the Sago Mine to the requirements of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and applicable regulations, policies, and procedures. Please ensure that your review examines MSHA's response to the explosion, the degree to which MSHA non-enforcement resources were used to address safety and health problems at the Sago Mine, and the appropriateness of civil penalties assessed for violations cited at the Sago Mine.

Please make your final report to the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health. Your report shall contain the review team's findings and conclusions as well as recommendations for improving the manner in which MSHA fulfills its statutory responsibilities at underground coal mines.