From: Bill K. Caylor [bcaylor@kentuckycoal.com]

Posted At: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:12 PM

Conversation: Comments on the draft Program Policy Letter (PPL) on compliance with post accident two-way communications and electronic tracking

Posted To: Microsoft Office Outlook Embedded Message

Subject: Comments on the draft Program Policy Letter (PPL) on compliance with post accident two-way communications and electronic tracking

January 8, 2009

Ms. Patricia W. Silvey, Director
Office of Standards, Variances & Regulations
Mine Safety & Health Administration
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350
Arlington, VA 22209-3939

Re: Draft Program Policy Letter (PPL) -Guidance for Compliance with Post-Accident Two-Way Communications and Electronic Tracking Requirements of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act

Dear Ms. Silvey:

The Kentucky Coal Association would like to comment on the draft Program Policy Letter (PPL) on compliance with post accident two-way communications and electronic tracking. The Kentucky Coal Association represents large and small, surface and underground operators in both the eastern and western Kentucky coal fields. Our members mine a major portion of Kentucky's coal.

We fully support and incorporate by reference the well-reasoned and detailed comments submitted by the National Mining Association. Our members had the same basic concerns as those enumerated by NMA.

We would emphasize two points. First, MSHA should give close attention to the implementation of this PPL to thin seam mining. There are unique circumstances which will make the implementation of the PPL more difficult.

Second, we feel it is impractical for a system to provide "micro-tracking" inside the working section. We feel the only necessary tracking for a section is to provide the identity of people working on the section, which can be accomplished with presently available electronic tracking systems. In emergencies, the surface location will have information on who was on the working section. Past mine emergencies involving unaccounted miners strongly indicate the necessary to only know the identity of personnel on the working section. No justification exists that indicates "micro-tracking" of miners on the working section would have changed the rescue effort.

Sincerely,

COMM-11

Bill K. Caylor
President
Kentucky Coal Association

Bill K. Caylor
Kentucky Coal Association
340 South Broadway, Suite 100
Lexington, KY 40508-2553
Phone (859) 233-4743
Fax (859) 233-4745
Cell (859) 396-7891