AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) recognize the benefits of a cooperative alliance to improve safety and health conditions at mines throughout the United States.

MSHA and ASSE hereby form an Alliance to use their collaborative efforts and expertise to protect miners, promote best practices, and encourage mine operators to develop and utilize safety and health management programs.

MSHA and ASSE will work cooperatively through the Alliance to provide outreach, communication, and professional development opportunities regarding mine safety and health by:

- Developing and disseminating information on mine safety and health at appropriate conferences and through print/electronic media, and the MSHA and ASSE websites; and

- Participating at conferences, meetings and other key events where mine safety and health issues are proactively addressed.

MSHA and ASSE will designate representatives to develop a plan of action, determine appropriate procedures and identify the respective roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, the Alliance will meet periodically to share information and determine the status of activities and evaluate results. Unless otherwise extended, this Alliance will continue in effect until December 31, 2004. Either signatory may terminate the Alliance for any reason at any time, provided 30 days written notice is given. This Agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of both signatories.

John Correll For 6/24/03

Dave Lauriski Date
Assistant Secetary of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Mark Hansen 06/24/03

Mark Hansen Date
President
American Society of Safety Engineers

Talking Points of Deputy Assistant Secretary John Correll
At Signing of Alliance Agreement with
The American Society of Safety Engineers at the
ASSE Professional Development Conference
Tuesday, June 24, 2003 – Denver, CO – 10:00am

Good morning to all you. It's a real honor to be here for the signing of this important safety agreement.

On behalf of Assistant Secretary Dave Lauriski, and the employees of Mine Safety and Health Administration, I'd like to thank Mark Hansen, President of the American Society of Safety Engineers for entering this into this alliance.

MSHA and the American Society of Safety Engineers have agreed to work together to enhance miner health and safety in the United States. We have agreed to share expertise, promote best practices, and encourage mine operators to develop and utilize safety and health management programs.

This is a significant action. And its good for the American mining industry. We believe that alliances such this agreement being signed today will lay the groundwork for an even safer and more healthful U.S. mining industry in years to come.

As many of you know, the mining industry just experienced its two safest years in the recorded history of mining.

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After several years of relative stagnation, the number of miners lost in accidents on the job dropped to a record low of 72 in 2001 and to another record low of 67 last year.

This means that more miners were sent home to their families in a safe and healthy condition. That is our ultimate goal.

We look forward to working with ASSE representatives in developing the specifics of our plan of action. We are excited about the experience, expertise and professionalism that ASSE can bring to our efforts to enhance miner health and safety throughout our nation.

We are also confident that, by working effectively together, we can reduce the frequency of mining fatalities to even lower levels than before.

Once again, I'd like to thank all of you for being here and thanks to the ASSE for becoming MSHA's partner in miner health and safety.

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