

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE
BETWEEN
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION - NORTH AMERICA

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the Industrial Minerals Association - North America (IMA-NA) recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful industrial minerals operations in the United States. MSHA and IMA-NA hereby form an Alliance to use their collective expertise to help foster a culture of prevention by sharing best practices and technical knowledge.

MSHA and IMA-NA agree to establish an Alliance to promote safe and healthful working conditions for industrial minerals workers by:

- Embracing mine safety and health performance goals with objective performance metrics.
- Providing IMA-NA members with information, education and training, and technical assistance to help them prevent injuries and illnesses and protect miners' safety and health.
- Expanding outreach and communications on mine safety and health matters.

MSHA and IMA-NA will work together to achieve the following education and training goals:

- Develop training and education programs on reducing and preventing mine hazards.
- Develop and share best practices and effective approaches to improve mine safety and health.

MSHA and IMA-NA will work together to achieve the following technical assistance goals:

- Conduct evaluations of exemplary applied engineering controls to improve mine safety and health so that the Alliance can communicate sound engineering solutions to others in the industry.
- Conduct analyses to identify health and safety practices which the Alliance can recommend to improve mine safety and health.

MSHA and IMA-NA will work together to achieve the following outreach and communication goals:

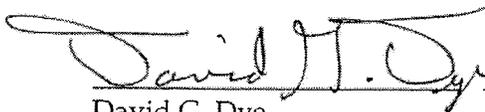
- Develop and disseminate information on mine safety and health at conferences, events, or through print and electronic media, including links from MSHA's and IMA-NA's Web sites.
- Speak, exhibit, or appear at conferences, meetings or other events and proactively address mine safety and health issues.

MSHA and IMA-NA will work together to achieve the following goals related to improvement of mine safety and health within the industrial minerals industry:

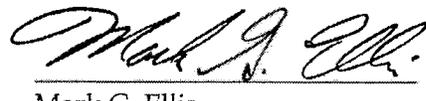
- Raise others' awareness of and demonstrate their own commitment to mine safety and health whenever MSHA or IMA-NA leaders address groups.
- Share information on best practices and effective approaches, as jointly determined by MSHA and IMA-NA, with others in the mining industry through individual or joint outreach and through training programs developed by MSHA and/or IMA-NA. Promote the implementation of these practices and approaches through print or electronic media, at conferences or by other means of outreach.
- Perform mine safety and health 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 challenging safety and health issues in mines 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.

This agreement will remain in effect until terminated by either signatory. This agreement may be terminated by any signatory for any reason at any time, provided a 30 day written notice of termination is provided to both parties. This agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of both signatories.


David G. Dye
Acting Assistant Secretary of
Labor for Mine Safety
and Health

12/30/04
Date


Mark G. Ellis
President
Industrial Minerals
Association - North America

12/30/04
Date