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SUBJECT: Transmittal of Technical Support Reports with Recommendations for Mine Operators

Scope

This Procedure Instruction Letter (PIL) applies to Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) personnel who are responsible for the drafting and transmittal of technical support investigation reports.

Purpose

The responsibilities of MSHA's Directorate of Technical Support include conducting technical investigations requested by Coal and Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health (Coal and Metal and Nonmetal) enforcement personnel. These investigations are primarily conducted to assist enforcement personnel in evaluating potential hazards encountered during mine inspections. The investigation reports may contain recommendations for operators to improve safety and health of miners.

Procedure Instructions

Effective immediately, MSHA will implement the following procedures to ensure timely transmittal of recommendations from on-site technical support investigations to mine operators and miners' representatives.

1. Requests for Technical Support investigations will come from the District Manager or the Chief of Safety, Coal or Metal and Nonmetal to appropriate Technical Support Center Chief. The District Manager will notify the Chief of Safety when Technical Support assistance has been requested.
2. Immediately following a Technical Support investigation at a mine site resulting in recommendations for the mine operator, a close-out meeting will be held with mine management and the miners' representative to discuss the preliminary results.
3. Technical Support on-site investigation reports containing recommendations to the mine operator will be sent to the District Manager and the Chief of Safety, Coal or Metal and Nonmetal. The District Manager will transmit the report to the mine operator and miners' representatives. Delivery will be documented.
4. A copy of the report will be placed in the mine file.

Internet Availability

This PIL may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA's home page at www.msha.gov then choosing "Compliance Info" and then "Procedure Instruction Letters."

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