

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (MSHA)
AND THE
AFGE/AFL-CIO
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FIELD LABOR LOCALS
(NCFLL)

INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Labor (MSHA) and the NCFLL in accordance with the applicable provisions of the master DOL-NCFLL agreement.

SUBJECT

This MOU concerns the Mine Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Pilot Test of Proposed General Coal Mine Inspection Procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Mine Safety and Health Administration shared its proposal to conduct pilot testing of proposed General Coal Mine Inspection Procedures. The purpose of the pilot testing is to evaluate the computer-based application for tracking and documenting inspections and to gather additional comments concerning the draft inspection procedures. The NCFLL agrees to the pilot testing and enters into this MOU with the Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration in accordance with the terms below.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

1. The Coal Mine Safety and Health Division will conduct a six month pilot test of the proposed Coal Mine Inspection Procedures.
2. The Pilot will be conducted in Districts 2, 5, and 6.
3. District Managers will have the responsibility of inspection oversight and determining the inspections used in the pilot.


4. Inspectors participating in the voluntary tests will be asked to conduct regular inspections in accordance with the attached Regular Inspection Procedures and Inspection Notes section of the August 2004, draft General Coal Mine Inspection Procedures Handbook, which provides for use of the computer-based Coal Mine Inspection Tracking system. This material will be relied on in lieu of Chapter 2, Section III, Chapter 3, Section II,E and Chapter 8, Section II of the current Coal Mine Inspection Procedures Handbook.
5. John "Buzz" Kopsic, will serve as the Coordinator for the NCFLL and as a contact person for inspectors to provide comments and ask questions regarding the use of the application.
6. At the conclusion of the 6 month pilot, the parties agree to meet and discuss the information gathered during the pilot. A determination will then be made whether the computer based tracking system is a viable tool for inspectors.
7. Prior to final implementation of the computer based tracking system, the parties further agree to work together. MSHA will consider any suggested changes by the NCFLL. MSHA will make changes in the computer based tracking system that they deem appropriate to insure a usable and realistic inspection tool.
8. The parties agree that a duplicative system of note keeping will not be required.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT:



Judy Mitchell
MSHA

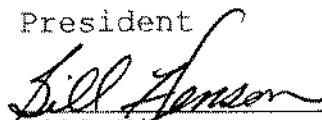
Raymond Mckinney
MSHA



Joseph Blake 10/20/04
OELMR

FOR THE NCFLL:

Ron Yarman
President



Bill Henson
Vice President

10/6/04

Date