

Notes from Mel Brown to R.D. Daniels

RE: BRIEF TO GNWT ON MINE SAFETY DATED FEBRUARY 16th, 1981

1. Introduction - says that it is in reponse to a motion respecting ammendments to the Mining Safety Ordinance. The title of this brief and the contents show concern for mine safety in general. I believe that this is right. Ammendments to the Ordinance are a small, but important part of mine safety.
Reference is made in the brief to "Mine Safety Services". DIAND has called the group "Mining Inspection Services". They are much more than that. We should try to get GNWT to adopt "Mine Safety Services".
I agree with the wording of 1.02, but suggest that, initially, the Chamber try to get together with the Federation of Labour and present a mutually agreeable package of ammendments to Mine Safety Services and the GNWT. If this could be done, we should expect no opposition from either of the above.
2. Objective - In 2.03, I would delete the reference to Saskatchewan WCB. The assets of WCB's are more dependent on assessment procedures than on safety legislation.
3. Jurisdiction - Recommendation 2. The word "matters" should be changed to "regulations". Management must retain the primary responsibility for safety in the Industry.
4. Organization - I agree with this.
5. Staffing - We should certainly insist on competent, experienced people in the mining inspection group, but I have some reservations about specifying "professional engineers". There is some engineering work to be done, and there should be at least one engineer in the group. However, I believe that the Senior Mining Inspector should be chosen more for his experience, his character and his leadership qualities than for his engineering abilities. This may help us when we negotiate later for more flexilibility in the requirements for Mine Managers, shift bosses, electricians, mechanics etc.

6. Ordinance - 6.03. The duties, responsibilities and procedures of the Mine Safety Committees are not clear to management, inspector, unions or the committees. This should be discussed in the amendments to the Ordinance.
7. Summary - Recommendation 2. When we talk of "safety working conditions" we should add "actions" or "procedures", or just specify "safety", which consists of safe attitudes, safe conditions and safe procedures.
Recommendation 4. The primary responsibility for safety remains with management.
Recommendation 7. Review with managers if they wish to retain the specification of "Professional Engineer".

Mel Brown