



State of West Virginia
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor

WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training
C. A. Phillips, Director
#7 Players Club Rd., Suite 2 • Charleston, West Virginia • 25311-1626
Telephone 304-558-1425 • Fax 304-558-1282
www.wvminesafety.org

Date: August 1, 2012

From: Office of the Director, WV OMHS&T
Engineering Support

To: Approved WV Shelter Manufacturers
Underground Operators
Labor Unions

CC: C.A. Phillips, OMHST
Eugene White, OMHST
Bill Tucker, OMHST
Howard Epperly, MSHA ACC

Subject: Update on Shelter Refits

OMHS&T has received updated examination procedures from all shelter manufacturers and has sent responses for incorporation into their final procedures which they should have begun using.

It has been reported from several manufacturers that the first shipments of monel valves and fittings are starting to arrive.

Several manufacturers are now aggressively pursuing their MSHA approvals for breathable air, hazardous gas removal, and monitoring. Joint confidential meetings can be arranged with mine operators, individual manufacturers, MSHA approval staff, and OMHST to discuss individual status.

Timing has been reported to be tight with cooperation among manufacturers and operators on logistics being the key to meeting the December 31, 2013 deadline.

Manufacturers should update their upcoming shelter examination schedule by the 1st and 15th of each month with copies to the OMHS&T and MSHA contacts below. Copies should also be provided to effected mine operators. OMHS&T and MSHA will continue spot checks on examination quality.

Operators should facilitate timely examinations by the manufacturers' representatives so as to allow for checking as many shelters as practical.

Page 2
August 1, 2012

Manufacturers should update their MSHA part 7 approval status table with as much detail as possible, so all concerned understand the process being undertaken.

Operators should request copies and review these with their manufacturer so there are no misunderstandings on progress.

Manufacturers and operators should notify the OMHS&T and MSHA contacts as soon as possible on any findings of leaks or cracks in shelters. It is important that we understand the occurrence rate to ensure it remains sufficiently stable to complete the refits in an orderly manner.

Individual correspondence with manufacturers regarding specific issues or application discrepancies should be handled with all due haste to maintain progress.

All correspondence on the above should be submitted electronically to both randy.j.harris@wv.gov and epperly.howard@dol.gov.