

**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit**

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 05-12-003-06-001, issued to the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

WHY READ THE REPORT

The purpose of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is to prevent death, disease, and injury from mining and to promote safe and healthful workplaces for the Nation's miners. To assist in achieving this purpose, MSHA reviews, approves, and monitors health and safety training plans as required by Section 115A of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act).

Two program areas within MSHA — Coal Mine Safety and Health and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health — are responsible for enforcing the Mine Act at all mining operations in the United States. This includes reviewing, approving, and monitoring training plans submitted by mine operators and contractors.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit to determine whether MSHA reviewed, approved, and monitored mine operators' training plans as required.

Our audit work covered training plans reviewed by MSHA during fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2012/05-12-003-06-001.pdf>.

September 2012

MSHA's Oversight of Mine Operators' Training Plans Was Adequate

WHAT OIG FOUND

We found that generally, MSHA timely reviewed, approved, and monitored mine operators' required training plans. We also found MSHA's policies and procedures regarding the review, approval, and monitoring of training plans complied with federal laws and regulations.

We reviewed a sample of 163 training plans. MSHA did not adequately document its review of 4 plans, and 2 of these plans had minor deficiencies not identified by MSHA's review process. We did not, however, consider the minor deficiencies to be indications of a systemic problem with MSHA's review and approval process. We found no exceptions in our review of 93 regular safety and health inspections.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

There were no findings and recommendations as a result of this audit. MSHA did not provide a written response to the report.