

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) is a national multi-state organization representing the natural resource, environmental protection and miner health and safety interests of its 26 member states, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended (MineAct), each of the Compact's member states implement programs for 1) the regulation of active surface and underground coal mining and reclamation operations, 2) the elimination of health and safety hazards and the reclamation of land and water resources adversely affected by past mining left in an abandoned or inadequately restored condition, and 3) ensuring the health and safety of our Nation's miners; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to these programs under both SMCRA and the MineAct, the states have developed robust mine mapping programs for both underground mines and the surface impacts of underground mines; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to these programs, the states have over 30 years of experience in developing, designing, and administering effective mine mapping programs, including the location, digitization, geo-referencing, cataloging and storing of mine maps; and

WHEREAS, in the course of their work, the states have worked cooperatively with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, including the receipt of grants from both agencies to enhance state mine mapping efforts and jointly presenting several benchmarking workshops on mine mapping; and

WHEREAS, IMCC recently conducted a survey of its member states to determine the current status of mine mapping efforts and found that, in most instances, those efforts have been significantly stymied due to limited resources and manpower to support the effort; and

WHEREAS, key areas of need include map identification and collection, scanning into a digital image (ideally meeting a 400 dpi and 24-bit RGB depth), geo-referencing, and, where possible vectorizing; and

WHEREAS, without additional, dedicated manpower to undertake these mapping efforts, along with new, updated mapping equipment and the funding to support both, mine mapping efforts are likely to stall, thereby impacting the health and safety of both our Nation's miners and the public

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission urges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the Mine Safety and Health Administration to provide additional, supplemental funding and personnel for state mine mapping efforts and to work with the states to seek additional appropriations from Congress for these efforts where agency resources are unavailable.

Issued this 17th day of October, 2014

ATTEST:




Executive Director