

Fayette County Health Center
100 New Salem Road, Room 167
Uniontown, PA 15401
August 17, 2004

Bureau of Deep Mine Safety

724-439-7469

TO: Pennsylvania Bituminous Mining Operations

RE: Informational Bulletin on Diesel-Powered Equipment
**Best Practices for Diesel-Powered Emergency Fire Fighting
Equipment – Section 201-A**

The Bureau of Deep Mine Safety is issuing the following informational bulletin for guidance concerning diesel powered emergency fire fighting equipment as referred to in Section 201-A of Article II-A of the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Act.

Diesel-powered emergency fire fighting equipment including fire cars, foam generators, and water-pumps do not require Department diesel approval but do require periodic inspection and maintenance to ensure that they are ready for use during any emergency. The following is a list of recommended **best practices** to ensure that the equipment is ready for emergency use and to ensure that miners are not exposed to unnecessary emissions during these periodic tests. The Bureau recommends:

- *that each mine develop a standardize set of testing procedures or checklist that is unique to each piece of equipment, thus ensuring that all periodic checks are performed in the same manner by all personnel,*
- *that all equipment to be used underground uses the same low sulfur fuel as required by the Act,*
- *that an EPA approved fuel stabilizer be used since the fuel in these units may remain for a long period of time between operation or refueling,*
- *that units operated underground in a non-emergency status (performing periodic or maintenance functions) be located in an area where diesel emissions can be ventilated directly to the return air-course, and*
- *where units cannot be ventilated directly to a return air course, constant monitoring for CO, NO, and NO₂ should be conducted during the period of time that the engines are operating.*

All mining equipment used underground must have Departmental approval that is obtained through the normal equipment approval process.

Should you have any questions concerning these best practices, please contact me at the above number or e-mail me at jsbaffoni@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Sbaffoni
Director
Bureau of Deep Mine Safety