



To:

August 3, 2011

Dear Mine Manager:

The Audiometric Data Input Centre of the Ministry of Energy and Mines has been collecting mine employee audiograms since 1979 and storing the information in a secured database. The information is used to target strategies for occupational hearing loss prevention. The Ministry wants to continue having this information to target these strategies; however, we no longer have the staff or financial resources in order to keep the Audiometric Data Input Centre going. The information has also been used extensively by WorkSafeBC to adjudicate hearing loss claims with the written consent of the worker.

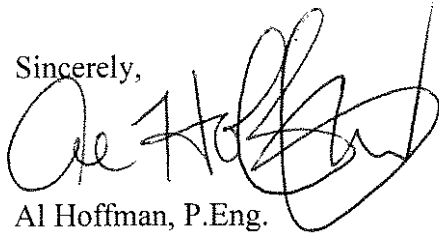
After reviewing all of the options we have decided to partner with WorkSafeBC and allow them to collect all of the audiograms from mine employees. We are in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between us. This will ensure the best service for mine employees and be the most cost effective and efficient method for both the mining industry and government.

The Ministry's current data base system is antiquated and time consuming. It is dependent on paper forms that have to be manually scanned and input into a data base. Moving to a computer-based data entry system will significantly reduce the effort required by audiometric technicians and reduce input errors. WorkSafeBC is willing to take on to take over data collection at no cost to the Ministry of Energy and Mines and they can provide the Ministry with reports as required. This transfer of this responsibility will also free up Ministry staff time which then can be applied to other health and safety functions.

It is important to note that this collaboration between MEM with WorkSafeBC in no way changes the regulatory authority of MEM over mines or is indicative of any change in jurisdiction. For mines that currently utilize audiometric contractors, this collaboration will be seamless. For the few mines that continue to employ in-house audiometric technicians, MEM will work with these mines to make arrangements to obtain WorkSafeBC training and certification. There will be a transition period which will give in house mine audiometric technicians ample time to ensure their audiometric technicians become WorkSafeBC certified and to learn the electronic form system.

If you have any questions regarding the details of the MOU please contact Caroline Nakatsuka, (250) 952-0500 or [Caroline.Nakatsuka@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Caroline.Nakatsuka@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Hoffman', written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Al Hoffman, P.Eng.  
Chief Inspector of Mines

cc

Anne Currie, All Inspectors of Mines