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PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 07-30

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SUBJECT: Notification of Opportunity for Interested Parties to Comment on
Advance Draft of Updated "Engineering and Design Manual: Coal Refuse
Disposal Facilities"

Who needs this information?

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) is intended for mine operators, design engineers, consultants, miners' representatives, and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) personnel who deal with the safety of dams and impoundments on coal mine property.

Why is MSHA issuing this PIB?

This PIB informs the mining industry and other interested persons of the opportunity to examine and comment on an advance draft of an updated "Engineering and Design Manual: Coal Refuse Disposal Facilities" (Design Manual). The draft version will be posted on MSHA's internet site at www.msha.gov. Interested parties will have until January 31, 2008, to submit comments or suggestions on the draft. Comments or suggestions should be sent to John Fredland, Dam Safety Officer, via e-mail at Fredland.John@dol.gov, or via regular mail at the following address:

John Fredland
Dam Safety Officer
DOL, MSHA, PS&HTC
Cochrans Mill Road
P.O. Box 18233
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Comments and suggestions are welcome and will be taken into consideration before the updated Design Manual is finalized.

What is the background for updating the Design Manual?

The original version of the Design Manual was published in 1975 following the Buffalo Creek dam failure. The purpose of the original manual was to “serve as a uniform guide to safe refuse disposal practices for those concerned with this necessary function of coal mining and preparation.” MSHA is updating the Design Manual to reflect what has been learned about coal-waste disposal and dam safety in the more than thirty years since the original manual was published. It will provide updated technical information to the industry on the design, construction and maintenance of safe dams at coal mining operations.

Who are the contact persons for this PIB?

Technical Support

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Is this PIB on the Internet?

This PIB may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA's home page at <http://www.msha.gov> and then choosing "Compliance Info" and "Program Information Bulletins."

Who will receive this PIB?

Program Policy Manual Holders

Miners' Representatives

Mine Operators

Impoundment Special Interest Group