

THE UNDERGROUND MINE MAPPING WORKSHOP

Underground Mine Map Submittals: A Perspective From The National Council of Coal Lessors

June 1-2, 2005

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania




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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COAL LESSORS, INC.

- Land Holding Companies Owning U.S. Coal Reserves
- Supports Archiving Underground Mine Maps.
- Concern for Dissemination of Accurate Information.

Five (5) Categories of Maps

- 
- Maps Prepared and Certified In-House
 - Outdated In-House Maps Without Verification
 - Uncertified In-House Maps
 - Certified Third-Party Maps
 - Uncertified Third-Party Maps.

Map Certification

- 
- NSPE Model Code of Ethics, Rules of Practice, II(2)(b)
 - “Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document *not prepared under their direction and control*”




Maps Prepared And Certified In-House

- Company Stands By Its Own Mapping Accuracy
- Concern Is Use For Another Purpose or Release of Proprietary Information



Outdated In-House Maps Without Verification

- Not Prepared Under The Engineer's Direction Or Control
- No Way For Physical Verification

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map. It features contour lines, a road, and a yellow line. A white circle with a crosshair is positioned on the map, with two white arrows pointing to the right towards the text.

Uncertified In-House Maps

- Likely Not Intended For Regulatory Submission
- May Not Be Prepared To Minimum Standards


Certified Third-Party Maps

- 
- May Not Be Verified By The Coal Lessor
 - Coal Lessor Could Incur Liability


Uncertified Third-Party Maps

- 
- A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a portion of a topographic map with contour lines, a road, and a yellow line. A white circle with a crosshair is on the map, with two arrows pointing to the right towards the text.
- Coal Lessor Releases A Map It Did Not Prepare
 - Map Preparer Did Not Certify

Goal

- 
- The Public Needs Information
 - The Public Needs Reliability
 - No Innocent Provider Should Be Punished

Accomplishing Goal

- 
- Statement Of Notice On Reliability
 - Provide Immunity To Map Provider

Immunity




- Sovereign Immunity

- You Cannot Sue The King

- Extend Sovereign Immunity To Map Provider

Notice of Reliability


- 
- Disclaimers To Stamp On Maps
 - Public Is Given Notice As To Degree Of Reliability



Disclaimer: Maps Prepared And Certified In-House

Limited Certification

This map has been certified, as shown, by an agent of [company name] and such certification is limited to the statement made by the certifying licensed professional engineer as shown hereon, as agent of [company name].



Disclaimer: Outdated In-House Maps Without Verification

Unverified [Company Name] Map --- For
Informational Purposes Only


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Unverified [Company Name] Map --- For
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Uncertified Map --- For Informational Purposes Only (cont'd)

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Maps Submitted For Redaction

- 
- All Title Blocks, Proprietary Information And Originator's Name And Information Is Redacted.

State Regulatory Agency Disclaimer

Unverified Map --- For Informational Purposes Only

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Only (Cont'd)


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(Cont'd)


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Standard Form Submittal Letter

- 
- Identify The Category Of Maps Submitted
 - Request That The Map Be Released With The Disclaimer
 - Request The State Agency Obtain A Release Consent

Standard Form Submittal Letter




● *[state agency, address]*

Dear [state agency official]:

At your request, [company name] has searched its map files and is transmitting the following categories of maps to you for informational purposes [INCLUDE ONLY THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY]:

Standard Form Submittal Letter (Cont'd)




[Maps prepared and certified by employees or agents of [company name] containing date-specific information and certified as specifically indicated thereon.

Maps drafted and uncertified by employees or agents of [company name] containing date-specific information


Unverified maps neither prepared nor certified by [company name] for which no verification has been undertaken.]

Standard Form Submittal Letter (Cont'd)



These maps are furnished to you, at your request, and only for what assistance they can give and for no other purposes. It is our further understanding that [state agency] will release the maps herewith furnished to requesters specifically directing the requester to take note of any disclaimers contained on these maps and admonishing the requester that such maps may contain outdated information for which no reasonable

Standard Form Submittal Letter (Cont'd)



verification could be undertaken. [INSERT THE FOLLOWING FOR ANY THIRD PARTY COMPANIES CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE - It is our understanding that your agency will be contacting the following companies for consent to release their maps that we have furnished to you pursuant to your request: (LIST THIRD-PARTY COMPANY NAMES)].

*Very truly yours,
[company official]*

Standard Form Agency Acknowledgment Letter

[state agency letterhead and address]

Dear [company name]:

[state agency] acknowledges receipt of mine maps and/or scanned images of mine maps provided by your company. We understand that the maps are for representational use only and do not imply any claim as to the accuracy as to the mine works shown on the maps. We also realize that the information is date specific and may be reinterpreted as new information becomes available.



Standard Form Agency Acknowledgment Letter (Cont'd)

[state agency] intends to make the information contained on your furnished maps available to other interested parties and will attach the following statement to each distribution:

["Insert Unverified Map --- For Informational Purposes Only" Disclaimer]




Standard Form Agency Acknowledgment Letter (Cont'd)

Thank you for your contribution to this important project. It is imperative that the records of mining activity in [state] are collected, correlated, kept in a repository, and made available to those with interest in the coal fields of [state].

*Very truly yours,
[state agency official]*

Mutual Ultimate Goal

- 
- Get The Best Possible Information Disseminated.
 - Alert Recipients Of Degree Of Reliability
 - Keep The Innocents Out Of The Courts
 - Work On Legislation To Accomplish The Goal

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