

NEWS RELEASE

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR RICHARD STICKLER TO APPEAR
BEFORE UTAH MINE SAFETY COMMISSION

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Richard Stickler, who oversaw rescue operations during the Crandall Canyon mine disaster, will appear before the Utah Mine Safety Commission during a meeting planned for Tuesday, November 20, 2007. The meeting will be held at the S.J. Quinney College of Law, on the University of Utah campus at 332 South 1400 East, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Stickler was appointed to his current position in October of 2006 and prior to his appointment was director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Deep Mine Safety from 1997 to 2003. With more than 37 years of mining experience he has worked as an underground coal miner, captain of a mine rescue team, first line foreman, shift manager, superintendent and mine manager. He is certified as a mine safety professional by the International Society of Mine Safety Professionals.

Also on the agenda is Walter Arabasz, director of the University of Utah seismograph stations; Richard Gates, Mine Safety and Health Administration chief investigator assigned to the Crandall Canyon incident; and John Kirkham, a local attorney who will discuss the legislative history of mine safety in Utah.

The Utah Mine Safety Commission was created following the incident at the Crandall Canyon mine and is reviewing the role of the State of Utah in mine safety, accident prevention, and accident response. The Commission will make recommendations to the governor regarding the State's role in those areas.

Public comment to the Commission is welcome. It may be mailed to John Baza, Executive Secretary, Utah Mine Safety Commission, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, PO Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114. Comments may also be emailed to minesafetycommission@utah.gov.

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