

December 12, 2003

Participants (See attached List)
Underground Coal Mining Safety Research Collaboration

**Letter of Understanding
Underground Coal Mining Safety Research Collaboration (UCMSRC)**

Dear Participants,

This Letter of Understanding (LOU) provides the basis upon which parties will join together cooperatively to manage and conduct research and collaboration in Canadian underground coal mining safety.

Description and Objective of Letter of Understanding

This LOU is solely a guide to clarify the intentions and policies of the participants. It is not intended to commit funding for projects, nor is it a legally binding contract. Commitments for funding specific work phases, or committing equipment or personnel time will be covered by separate agreements, if required.

Goals

The goal of the UCMSRC is to contribute to improved safety and health in underground coal mining in Canada, by identifying and addressing technology and knowledge “gaps” in key areas for current/future operating mines.

CANMET-MMSL's Commitment

CANMET-MMSL will provide in-kind resources to support the UCMSRC in the form of a Chairperson, a Secretary and technical support as required. CANMET-MMSL will also continue to provide a “secure” web site <http://www.ugcoal.ca>. In the past CANMET-MMSL provided direct financial resources to support a “technical advisor” and postgraduate students to undertake research projects, but this is currently not available.

Financial Management

UCMSRC will rely on contributions from participants including CANMET-MMSL or third parties, if available, to pay for outside technical advisors and for R&D, if chosen to be undertaken. CANMET-MMSL will manage the funds by opening a Special Purpose Account

(SPA). Quarterly reports on the finances will be provided to the contributors and the participants. It is expressly understood that:

1. The funds provided will be used solely for the activities of the UCMSRC;
2. None of the funds provided will pay for any CANMET-MMSL activities;
3. Government of Canada procurement rules will be adhered to;
4. Any unused monies will be returned to the contributing parties in proportion to their contribution.

Participant Organizations' Commitment

Stakeholders from the Canadian underground coal mining industry are welcome to become participants in the UCMSRC. Participants are not obligated to provide any direct funding, but will be invited to attend 3-4 meetings per year and may choose to undertake tasks or projects that are proposed, but this is strictly on a voluntary basis. Participants can terminate their participation in UCMSRC at any time.

Confidentiality

Written communications including research reports, minutes of meetings, etc. will be made available to participants via e-mail or through the "secure" web site which is password protected. Items which are to be made available to the general public will be approved by UCMSRC and will be set up on the "non-secure" web site, hosted by P. Cain.

Disclaimer

Any reports, fact sheets or information provided under the auspices of UCMSRC or posted on its web site are for informational purposes only. Neither UCMSRC nor its participants assume any liability deemed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the information provided, nor make any representation nor warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

Duration of Letter of Understanding

This LOU shall be effective from the date of the participant's signature of approval, and will expire on September 30, 2004. The LOU may be extended for additional periods by written amendment between the participants. Participants can terminate their participation in UCMSRC at any time by giving written notice of termination to the UCMSRC Chairperson.

Additional Information

The operation of UCMSRC is described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which expired on September 30, 2003. A copy of the MOU and additional information is available on the "secure" web site.

If you are interested in participating in the UCMSRC, please sign in the space provided below and return by fax to (705) 670-6556. We look forward to your continued participation, and thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Bonnell

Gary Bonnell

Chairperson - UCMSRC

Tel: 1-705-670-6766 Fax: 1-705-670-6556

E-mail: gbonnell@nrcan.gc.ca

Acceptance/Approval of Letter of Understanding on behalf of Participant

The undersigned agrees to become a member of the UCMSRC as outlined in the attached LOU.

Organization: _____

By: _____
Participant Date

**Underground Coal Mining Safety Research Collaboration (UCMSRC)
List of potential participants**

NAME	COMPANY	LOCATION
Beaton, Kevin	CBCL Ltd.	Port Hawkesbury, NS
Bonnell, Gary Chairperson Young, Dave Secretary Corbett, Gary	CANMET - MMSL	Sudbury, Ont Ottawa, Ont Ottawa, Ont
Cain, Peter	Grande Cache Coal Co.	Grande Cache, Alta
Farrell, Steve	Donkin Resources	Sydney, NS
Forrester, Dave	DJ Forrester Consultancy Ltd	Sydney, NS
Galovich, Kresho	Quinsam Coal	Campbell River, BC
Gillis, Bobby	Canadian Auto Workers Union	Sydney, NS
Hall, Robert	University of British Columbia	Vancouver, BC
Hindy, Don	Alberta Human Resources & Employment	Edmonton, Alta
Hoffman, Al Booth, Richard Taje, Ed	BC Ministry of Energy and Mines	Victoria, BC
Joseph, Tim	University of Alberta	Edmonton, Alta
Rogers, Wayne	HRDC, Labour Program	Sydney, NS
Woodland, Pleman	NS Dept of Environment & Labour	Halifax, NS
Zou, Steve Butt, Steve	Dalhousie University	Halifax, NS