

# Applicant/Violator System Office System Advisory Memorandum



**SAM # 15    DATE: January 23, 1998**

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## **Subject: MSHA R-31 INFORMATION**

A modified form of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)<sup>1</sup> R-31 Controller report is available to view in the Applicant/Violator System (AVS). On the main menu it is called MSHA R31 QUERY. This independent data base is made available to users through AVS as a reference source and potential research tool. The data in MSHA R-31 does not interact with the AVS data base.

OSM does not validate the R-31 information it receives from MSHA. It is provided to OSM each month in a flat file. The report identifies for MSHA the controller of an MSHA identification number, the operator on the site designated by the MSHA number, and certain other site-specific information.

AVS users may use an MSHA identification number or the name of a company or individual to search the data base. As with AVS entity searches, when performing a name search in R-31, it is recommended that a partial name or character string be used. A query of the data base will produce a list of the MSHA identification number(s), controller names, and operator names that meet the search parameters. For each record, additional data specific to the mine site may also be retrieved.

AVS users are cautioned that MSHA definitions for "controller" and "operator" are not necessarily the same as in OSM and primacy States' regulations. The definitions for the other data fields in R-31 also do not necessarily correspond to OSM definitions.

## **Entering MSHA Identification Numbers in Application/Permit Records**

Prior to the fourth quarter of 1991, OSM used MSHA identification numbers in order to bill permittees and operators for reclamation fees. This identifier remains important in retaining the identity of persons responsible for unpaid reclamation fees. OSM requests that regulatory authorities enter the MSHA identification number(s) that corresponds to an issued permit into AVS application records. If the MSHA identification number is unavailable at the time of permit issuance, OSM requests that the application/permit record be updated as that information becomes available, in accordance with section IV.D. of the Memorandum of Understanding with the States regarding AVS operation.

<sup>1</sup> The Mine Safety and Health Administration is an office of the U.S. Department of Labor.

For information regarding data entry of MSHA identification numbers into existing application records, see Section E, "Update Existing Application Information" in the AVS Users Guide.

If you have questions regarding the MSHA R31 QUERY, please consult section I of the AVS Users Guide or contact your AVS User Assistance Liaison at 1-800-643-9748.

**Signed;** \_\_\_\_\_

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