

**CHARGE TO THE NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA (NORA) MINING
SECTOR COUNCIL – DELIVERING EXISTING HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION TO
SMALL MINE OPERATORS**

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BACKGROUND

Currently, the NIOSH Mining Program supports essentially all the occupational safety and health research for traditional mining industries in the nation and continues to receive significant input on its research agenda from Congress and from MSHRAC. It is therefore inappropriate to ask a NORA Mining Sector Council to develop a new research strategic plan or refine the existing NIOSH Mining Program's research portfolio.

In the National Academy Report entitled "Mining Safety and Health Research at NIOSH: Reviews of Research Programs of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health," one area of major concern relates to how health and safety products are being used by small mining operations. This segment of the mining industry continues to lag behind others when comparing injury and illness performance data.

MISSION

The NORA Mining Sector Council will focus on outreach, especially to small mines, by forging new and more effective collaborative efforts through the NORA process.

Some questions that might guide this process include:

- Do safety and health professionals servicing the mining industry need better methods to deliver products to the small mine operators?
- What information about small mines and their operators would guide the packaging of information in more usable and suitable forms?
- How might existing health and safety products be collected from all organizations that interact with small mine operators into a single, easily accessible, source?

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The NORA Mining Sector Council will:

1. Represent all stakeholders;
2. Seek broad stakeholder participation;
3. Practice transparency by displaying its inputs and results of its decision-making publicly;
4. Establish and periodically update a plan for accomplishing its mission;
5. Promote effective collaborations;
6. Review and revise membership periodically to maintain broad expertise, diverse insights and energized members.

OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

A NORA Sector Council will:

1. Be co-chaired by the NIOSH Sector Program Manager or a designee and by a stakeholder representative;
2. Follow membership guidelines that encourage broad and diverse participation with such categories as organizational members (e.g., trade associations, labor groups, governmental agencies, and professional organizations) and individual members (e.g., researchers, safety and health professionals); there may be full members, corresponding members and those who collaborate on a specific sub-sector, project or committee; the co-chairs, organizational members and full individual members will be invited to participate or continue participation annually by the NIOSH Director;
3. Undertake only those activities that are consistent with NORA, as determined by the NIOSH Director;
4. Develop appropriate mechanisms to involve as broad a range of sector partners as possible; and
5. Post draft documents on the web for stakeholder input prior to finalizing them.

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