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MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
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August 6, 2014

Mr. Nick A. Walters, Regional Administrator
Region V
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
United States Department of Labor
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Subject: MIOSHA's Statement in Response to Final FY 2013 Federal Annual Monitoring and Evaluation (FAME) Report - October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

Dear Mr. Walters:

Thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively during the comprehensive annual evaluation process to ensure that Michigan's state plan program continues to be effective by ensuring safe and healthful workplaces. MIOSHA strives to be a continuous improvement organization and values constructive input and feedback.

This letter provides MIOSHA's statement in response to the Fiscal Year 2013 FAME report. We request this letter be posted with the SOAR report on the OSHA webpage.

MIOSHA Program Effectiveness

We believe the Michigan program for occupational safety and health continues to be highly effective in protecting Michigan workers from on-the-job injuries, illnesses and exposures as evidenced by:

- Michigan's downward trend in injury and illness rates and program related workplace fatalities.
- For the most recent five years of data, Michigan's decreases in injury and illness have followed the downward trend seen in national averages. Michigan's fatality rates have been lower or equal to the national averages in the last five years.
- Ranking as second best of all 50 states in ability to inspect high hazard workplaces indicating adequate compliance staffing levels. (AFL-CIO Report, Death on the Job The Toll of Neglect, May 2014)
- Partnerships with data that demonstrate effectiveness in significantly reducing injuries and illnesses for these projects.
- Ability to consistently meet or exceed most of the State Activity Mandated Measures (SAMMs).

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- Implementation of special enforcement and outreach initiatives to address emerging trends or special needs.
- Six-year recipient of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Workplace Flexibility recognizing MIOSHA as a great place to work.

MIOSHA Strategic Plan and Initiatives

Michigan operates under five-year strategic plans to guide program activities and resource allocation. The MIOSHA strategic plan focuses on three strategic goals that are consistent with those of federal OSHA. Fiscal Year 2013 was the fifth year of MIOSHA's third strategic plan. MIOSHA implemented a number of new or revised strategies to strengthen the program's effectiveness in protecting Michigan workers including:

- New good faith penalty reductions aimed at more closely assessing an employer's efforts to comply with MIOSHA rules and requirements.
- An aggressive approach for targeting 10 general industries and construction for prioritized outreach and enforcement activity.
- A new safety and health management system evaluation for use in programmed inspections.
- A new safety and health management system evaluation customized for the construction industry.
- An updated customer comment card to obtain ongoing feedback.
- MIOSHA Training Institute courses on specific MIOSHA standards and advanced management track courses for employers and employees in Michigan.
- A "Tough Economic Times" initiative to remind employers of their ongoing obligations to provide workplace safety and health protections and offer assistance to ease economic hardships.
- A "Safety Pays" initiative to remind and discuss with employers the economic value of good safety and health programs.
- Enhanced communications through implementing new strategies such as Facebook, Twitter and creating a monthly eNews letter.
- The "Connecting MIOSHA to Industry" initiative to improve communication and collaboration with customers. The initiative includes "education" as a part of every intervention and includes special outreach such as the Coffee with MIOSHA events.

The current strategic plan covers Fiscal Years 2014 to 2018. MIOSHA created this plan by holding three stakeholder focus groups to provide input. The purpose of these focus groups was to gather stakeholder suggestions for how MIOSHA can improve program effectiveness by having the greatest impact in reducing workplace injuries, illnesses, exposures, and fatalities.

Relationship with Federal OSHA

MIOSHA has established and maintains a positive relationship with OSHA. The Lansing Area OSHA Office and Region V are included in the distribution of MIOSHA policy documents, publications, and newsletters and are invited to participate in staff training, meetings, and conferences.

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Comments on Specific FAME Findings

Complaint Processing: MIOSHA is currently processing all complaints upon receipt of all necessary information. We are currently meeting the goals that were negotiated for inspections and investigations.

Abatement Date Verification: MIOSHA is migrating to the OSHA Information System (OIS) in August of 2014. At that time the abatement verification dates will be entered into OIS.

Case File Documentation: All MIOSHA enforcement staff has undergone retraining on documentation procedures to ensure that employee representatives were given the opportunity to participate in all phases of workplace inspections.

Conclusions

MIOSHA appreciated working with the evaluation team. The team was courteous in working with our staff. Please know that MIOSHA's commitment to providing a comprehensive and effective program remains firm. MIOSHA has established firm and fair enforcement, effective consultation, education and training, adoption of relevant fact-based standards, and meaningful cooperative agreements with individual employers, employees, and employer organizations. We continue to believe this comprehensive approach is the most effective way to increase safety and health awareness, gain compliance, and ultimately keep Michigan's working men and women safe on the job.

MIOSHA would like to thank the review team for the special recognition given to its unique General Industry Reinspection program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a statement in response to the FY 2013 FAME Report. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (517) 322-1817.

Sincerely,

Martha B. Yoder
Director

cc: Stephanie Comai, Deputy Director, LARA
Larry Johnson, Director, Lansing Area Office, OSHA
Barton G. Pickelman, Deputy Director, MIOSHA