June 25, 2019

Mr. Ken Nishiyama Atha
Regional Administrator
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Atha:

The Indiana Department of Labor appreciates the opportunity to partner with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and work collaboratively during the fiscal year 2018 Follow-up FAME process. The following information contains IOSHA’s formal response to OSHA’s fiscal year 2018 Follow-up FAME for the state of Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Labor believes the IOSHA state plan program continues to be very effective in protecting Hoosier workers from workplace injuries, illnesses, and exposures as evidenced by Indiana’s historic low nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate of 3.5 per 100 workers. While leadership at the Indiana Department of Labor understands there is more work to be done to further improve workplace safety and health, Indiana is proud to showcase the 69% reduction in these incidents over the last 15 years. Please reference the chart below titled, “Indiana’s Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Rate Chart.”
IOSHA was very pleased that federal OSHA recognized the agency’s improvement efforts and positive contributions to improve workplace safety and health in Indiana, including the following:

- Conducting 260 more inspections in FY 2018 than FY 2017;
- IOSHA cited an average of 2.84 serious, willful (knowing), and repeat and repeat violations per inspection in FY 2018, which was greater than the national average of 1.82;
- Lapse time for issuing safety citations was reduced from an average of 67 days in FY 2017 to 42 days in FY 2018;
- Lapse time for health citations was reduced from an average of 106 days in FY 2017 to 51 days in FY 2018;
- Participation in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) increased to nearly 100 sites;
- 10 of Indiana’s major industries reported in statistical summaries experienced decreases in their nonfatal workplace injury and illness rate.

IOSHA prides itself on being a continuous improvement-oriented organization. IOSHA looks forward to working with federal OSHA to reconcile the FY 2017 findings which could not be verified by federal OSHA as “completed” since the FY 2018 FAME was not comprehensive and did not include a case file review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rick J. Ruble
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Labor

Michelle L. Ellison
Deputy Commissioner
Indiana Department of Labor