



ICG ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING MCCLOY LETTER AND SCSR DEVICES

April 27, 2006 – Although we have seen only excerpts of Mr. McCloy's letter, his correspondence was apparently intended to be a personal communication to the families of his fallen coworkers. Consequently, we prefer not to comment on his recollections of that tragic experience. This accident remains a human tragedy for everyone involved. ICG continues to work with state and federal authorities in the accident investigation in hope that future accidents can be avoided.

The Sago mine provides Self Contained Self Rescuers ("SCSRs") manufactured by CSE to its miners when they are hired. The SCSRs used at the Sago mine are widely used in the coal industry and are approved for use by MSHA. The SCSRs worn by the Sago miners were all within their manufacturer suggested life. SCSRs are checked visually and audibly every 90 days by a trained person at the mine, but they are also checked visually by the wearer every day. The SCSR contains a small window with a blue dot; if the blue dot is not present, then the SCSR is presumed to be ineffective and is discarded. SCSRs can only be tested in this manner; if an SCSR is opened and engaged, it can no longer be used.

NIOSH and MSHA tested the SCSRs worn by the miners at the Sago mine. ICG representatives were informed that the SCSRs found at the barricade were deployed and showed varying degrees of usage. The federal investigators did not note any defective SCSRs and all SCSRs appeared to be in working order.