

Health, many cooperative studies have been carried out by these two agencies in the metal- and coal-mining industries, as well as in the training and other related fields. Through this cooperative arrangement, a better quality of investigation has been possible, which has been of economic advantage to each agency. A written memorandum of agreement exists between the Division of Occupational Health and the Health and Safety Activity of the Bureau of Mines. Examples of recent studies conducted by the two agencies are (1) a re-evaluation of silicosis in the metal-mining industry; (2) a study of pneumoconiosis in the bituminous coal mines of the Appalachian region; and (3) cooperative activities in evaluating the health hazards associated with radioactive gas and nuclei in the uranium mines. Cooperative studies which are in the planning stage at the present time include an evaluation of dust conditions in bituminous mines and a long-term followup study of silicosis and dust conditions in the metal-mining industry. Upon request, this Division also carries out certain medical functions for the Bureau of Mines, such as the medical evaluation of Federal coal mine inspectors; the toxicologic appraisal of chemicals being introduced into the mining environment; and the assessment of health effects resulting from mining operations such as diesel fumes, nitrous oxides, and other gases resulting from the use of internal combustion engines.

Because of certain health problems that have recently become apparent in the coal-mining industry, the two agencies are sponsoring a training program for management level personnel in mining companies, professional and technical organizations, and labor unions. Through a joint technical committee, a communication channel has been established with the coal- and metal-mining industries as well as allied professional and technical organizations. This committee has been successful in solving several major problems in the industry before they became national issues.

Almost since the inception of the Department of Labor, there has been a close working relationship between that Department and the Division of Occupational Health. An agreement between the Bureau of Labor Standards and the Division of Occupational Health results in the cross-referral of problems, technical assistance by this Division to the Bureau in performing its responsibilities under the Walsh-Healey Act, and cooperation in the training of labor inspectors in the recognition of industrial health problems. The two agencies also work cooperatively in the training of foreign students in health and safety, the assignment of specialized personnel to foreign countries for consultation in program development, and provision of expert assistance to the International Labour Office.

(d) and (e). The entire program of the Division of Occupational Health depends upon a close working relationship with State and local governments, through their departments of health and labor. It has been a basic premise that the responsibility of the Federal program was to perform research, develop data for the establishment of standards, and provide technical assistance. The provision of direct services to industry, including inspection, consultation, guidance, and the establishment of standards, has been viewed as a State and local responsibility. There are presently 86 jurisdictional units providing occupational health services in 41 States. This Division has provided the necessary technical backup services for these State and local units