

**Review of the MineTracer System by Venture Design Services for Functionality with
WV Legislative Rule Title 56, Series 4 Emergency Rules Governing
Protective Clothing and Equipment**

June 6, 2007

After the evaluation of the documentation submitted the technical reviewers agree that the manufacturer and their representatives, Venture Design Services Inc., presented sufficient proof of functionality such as the MineTracer System would allow WV underground mining permit holders to meet all or part of their requirements for emergency communications and tracking outlined in the West Virginia Emergency Rule Governing Protective Clothing And Equipment, §56-4-8 and these products should be included in the Director’s listing of approved devices.

WV 56-4 Requirement	Functionality Confirmed
<p>9.5. The Director shall require providers seeking approval submit documentation certified by a licensed West Virginia professional engineer that the product has been tested for functionality in West Virginia underground mines, that the product has been or is in the process of being approved as intrinsically safe by MSHA and other criteria as the Director determines, a description of the process used in making that determination and a certification in the following form: “I, the undersigned, hereby certify that this product, to the best of my knowledge and belief, meets or exceeds all requirements set forth in W. Va. CSR Title 56 Series 4-9, that the product has been tested for functionality in West Virginia underground mines, that the product has been or is in the process of being approved as intrinsically safe by MSHA and other criteria as the Director determines.”</p>	<p>A certified letter was provided from Lloyd English, PE, WV 10347 attesting to the validity of the results presented.</p> <p>Proof of active review of the MineTracer System for applicable electrical safety by the Mine Safety and Health Administration was provided.</p>
<p>9.11. In developing the communication/tracking plan and any revisions, the operator shall take into consideration the needs for emergency communications and tracking/locating resulting for accidents as described at W. Va. Code Chapter 22A Article 2-66(a), physical features of the particular mine, emergency plans, existing communication infrastructure, communications required under W. Va. Code Chapter 22A Article 1-35(k) and 2-42 and W. Va. CSR Title 36 Series 2-2 and 5-2, advances in communication/tracking technologies and any other aspect of the particular mine the operator deems relevant to the development of the communication/tracking plan.</p>	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented installation and operational flexibility such that the MineTracer System could be adapted by operators to meet various underground mining schemes utilized in West Virginia.</p> <p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented flexibility in their system such that the MineTracer system could be upgraded by operators as technology advances.</p> <p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented sufficient technical expertise to aid operators in adapting the MineTracer System to their unique mining conditions and integration with other systems.</p>
<p>9.13.1. A communication center monitored at all times during which one or more miners are underground.</p>	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. demonstrated that the MineTracer System features provide a means for operators to monitor communication and tracking from a central location.</p>

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9.13.2. Knowing the location of all miners immediately prior to an event by tracking/locating device in the escape-ways, normal work assignments, or notification of the communication center;	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented documentation that the MineTracer System provides the ability for the mine operator to know the location of miners prior to an event.</p> <p>Demonstrated specific performance is attached. Performance in conditions other than those attached have not been verified by the information presented and requires additional submittals.</p>
9.13.3. Knowing the location of miners in the escape-ways after an event providing the tracking system is still functional;	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented documentation that the MineTracer System has extended back-up battery performance, provides the ability for operators to develop installations that maximize the likelihood of survivability, and provides a means of rapidly re-establishing tracking if lost.</p>
9.13.4. Check-in and check-out with the communication center by miners prior to entrance and exit from bleeders and remote or seldom used areas of the mine (all times shall be logged);	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented documentation that an operator could institute a combination of administrative and technological means for knowing the status and location of a miner who is outside the coverage of the MineTracer System installation.</p>
9.13.5. Allowing two way communications coverage in at least two separate air courses and at least one of which shall be an intake;	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented documentation that the MineTracer System provides integrated tracking and two-way wireless communication via messaging devices allowing all miners within the network to communicate in parallel with the mine office in two or more airways.</p> <p>Demonstrated specific performance is attached. Performance in conditions others than those attached have not been verified by the information presented and require additional submittals.</p>
9.13.6. Maintaining communication/tracking after loss of outside power and maintain function both inby and outby of the accident event site with suitable supply of equipment for rapid reconnection;	<p>Venture Design Services Inc. presented documentation that MineTracer System can be installed with the following capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built-in backup battery power for continuous extended operation • Communication between those inby an accident event site • Communication and tracking for those outby an accident event site • Alternative communication routing to allow inby miners to communicate with the surface • Deployment in a manner that maximizes survivability • Deployment with a rapid reconnect capability

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9.13.8. Allow for communication to surface at all required emergency shelters/chambers;	Venture Design Services Inc. provided information that an operator could deploy the MineTracer System in a manner that would provide communication to the surface from emergency shelters/chambers
9.13.9. All miners and likely emergency responders shall be trained in the use, limitations and inter-operability of all components of the communication and tracking/locating system. This shall be incorporated into ongoing required training. All training shall be recorded and made available upon request;	Venture Design Services Inc. provided information indicating their ability to aid operators in developing and implementing necessary training.
9.15.3. A statement regarding how the communications/ tracking system will be tested and maintained; and	Venture Design Services Inc. provided information indicating their ability to aid in the training of operator staff or providing maintenance services

Reviewers:

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