December 4, 2002

By fax (202) 693-9401
and regular mail

Mr. David D. Lauriski
Assistant Secretary of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
1100 Wilson Boulevard, 21st Floor
Arlington, VA 22209-3939

Dear Assistant Secretary Lauriski:

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, I am requesting the following information for the period beginning January 1, 2002 and ending September 30, 2002.

Please provide copies of telephone logs, appointment calendars, calendar markings, notes, correspondence and travel vouchers of any MSHA Arlington, Virginia officials, specifically David Lauriski, John Caylor, and Mark Ellis, indicating contact and/or meetings with representatives from Murray Energy Corporation, Ohio Valley Coal Company or Powhatan #6 Mine regarding complaints concerning MSHA’s enforcement actions, review and approval of mining plans or other matters referencing the Powhatan #6 Mine.

Please provide copies of telephone logs, appointment calendars, calendar markings, notes, correspondence and travel vouchers of Manager Timothy Thompson, Field Supervisor William A. McGilton and any other officials of MSHA District 3 indicating contact and/or meetings with representatives from Murray Energy Corporation, Ohio Valley Coal Company or Powhatan #6 Mine regarding complaints concerning MSHA’s enforcement actions, review and approval of mining plans or other matters referencing the Powhatan #6 Mine.
Please provide copies of telephone logs, appointment calendars, calendar markings, notes, correspondence and travel vouchers of the personal staff to David Lauriski, John Caylor, Mark Ellis, Timothy Thompson, William McGilton and any other MSHA Officials indicating contact and/or meetings with representatives from Murray Energy Corporation, Ohio Valley Coal Company or Powhatan #6 Mine.

Please provide copies of sign-in sheets showing the names of the representatives from Murray Energy Corporation, Ohio Valley Coal Company or Powhatan #6 Mine who were present for any meetings with David Lauriski, John Caylor, Mark Ellis, Timothy Thompson, William McGilton or any other MSHA Official.

The Act permits you to waive fees for searching for or photocopying records when the release of information is considered “primarily benefitting the public.” I believe this request fits that category and I request that you waive any fees.

If all or any of this request is denied, please cite the specific exemption(s) which you believe justify your refusal to release the information and inform me of the appeal procedures available to me. Your prompt action on this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Baker
Department of Occupational Health and Safety