

Stakeholder Engagement Feedback

Policy 09.06, Virtual and Desktop Review Methods for Inspections (NEW POLICY)

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut is proposing a new policy, *Policy 09.06, Virtual and Desktop Inspections*.

Policy 09.06 is being proposed as a new policy to provide governance level direction for the appropriate use of virtual and desktop review methods for worksite inspections. The policy goal is to provide Governance Council oversight to ensure worksite inspections are conducted effectively, while embracing modern technology to allow the WSCC to use its limited human and financial resources as efficiently as possible.

The recent pandemic highlighted the need to proactively consider and provide guidance for the inspection of worksites using virtual and desktop review methods. Whether a pandemic, weather event, or other natural or human made disaster, the pandemic highlighted that external factors can quickly alter the operations of the WSCC. It is important that the WSCC responsibly leverage technology to ensure compliance and enforcement in the face of external influences.

Please review the attached policy in its current form and provide comments that you believe will benefit the policy development process.

Comments

Policy 09.06, Virtual and Desktop Inspections is being proposed as a new Governance Council policy. The WSCC is asking for your feedback on the proposed policy's overall clarity, and to understand if there are any gaps in the proposed policy from the perspective of stakeholders.

When reviewing the policy, the WSCC is specifically interested in your review and comments about the clarity of the policy. Specifically, are the criteria and guidance for when a Safety Officer or Inspector of Mines should and may consider a virtual and desktop inspection clear to the reader?

The WSCC of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut would like your feedback on the overall effectiveness of the policy. If you have any comments to provide about the content or clarity of the policy, please submit them to policy@wsc.nt.ca by **Sunday July 30, 2023**. When providing feedback please make it clear that your comments concern the draft Policy 09.06.

The WSCC would like to thank you in advance for your feedback. Your participation contributes to the improvement of the service we provide to our stakeholders.

Attached Documents:

Policy 09.06, Virtual and Desktop Inspections



VIRTUAL AND DESKTOP REVIEW METHODS FOR INSPECTIONS

POLICY STATEMENT

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) inspects worksites across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to ensure safe work and compliance with occupational health and safety legislation.

This policy provides guidance for the WSCC's use of virtual and desktop review methods for inspecting worksites. The purpose of using virtual and desktop review methods for inspections is to ensure the efficient use of the financial and human resources of the WSCC in the effective regulation of safe work.

Virtual and desktop review methods are only used if the findings of an inspection can reasonably be expected to be equal to or better than the expected findings of an in-person worksite inspection.

DEFINITIONS

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| Chief Inspector of Mines: | The person appointed to be the Chief Inspector of Mines under the authority of the <i>Mine Health and Safety Act(s)</i> . |
| Chief Safety Officer: | The person appointed to be the Chief Safety Officer under the authority of the <i>Safety Acts</i> . |
| Desktop Review: | A documentary analysis undertaken by a Safety Officer or Inspector of Mines at a location other than a worksite, for the purpose of performing a worksite inspection. |
| Geotag: | An electronic marker that confirms the geographical location of where a digital photograph or video is taken. |
| Inspection: | Examining and documenting worksites to ensure ongoing compliance with occupational health and safety legislation. |

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|  <p>Workers' Safety & Compensation Commission</p> |  |
| <p>VIRTUAL AND DESKTOP REVIEW METHODS FOR INSPECTIONS</p> | |

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| Inspector of Mines: | A person appointed by the Chief Inspector of Mines as an Inspector of Mines under authority of the <i>Mine Health and Safety Act(s)</i> . |
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| Occupational health and safety legislation: | The Acts and Regulations administered by the WSCC that concern occupational health and safety including the <i>Mine Health and Safety Act(s)</i> , <i>Safety Act(s)</i> , and <i>Explosives Use Act(s)</i> , and associated regulations. |
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| Safety Officer: | A person appointed by the Chief Safety Officer as a Safety Officer under authority of the <i>Safety Act(s)</i> . |
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| Virtual Review: | <p>A virtual analysis undertaken by a Safety Officer or Inspector of Mines at a location other than a worksite, for the purpose of performing a worksite inspection.</p> <p>Virtual reviews may include the use of online meeting tools to assess a worksite remotely. They may also include videos, photos, digital documents, and any other source requested to inspect a worksite without the Safety Officer or Inspector of Mines being physically present.</p> |
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| Worksite: | A worksite is any place where work is carried out. |
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