



OCT 12 2011

The Honorable John Kline  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

Thank you for your August 17, 2011, letter to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on behalf of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In your letter, you express concern over OSHA policies governing safe operation for telecommunications towers. You ask three questions regarding OSHA's inspection and enforcement procedures relating to tower erection and maintenance. We respond to your questions as follows:

**Question #1** – Is OSHA considering aligning the hoisting standard for tower maintenance and modification to the standard currently in place under CPL 2-1.36 (*Interim Inspection Procedures During Communication Tower Construction Activities*) for tower construction?

**Response:**

As you noted in your letter, while the Agency does have an enforcement directive for construction of communication towers, it does not yet have a directive for maintenance activities. OSHA's Directorates of Construction and Enforcement Programs are working collaboratively to produce a common directive that will align the hoisting standard for tower maintenance and modification (i.e., general industry) with the hoisting procedures for new tower erection (i.e., construction).

**Question #2** – If yes, when does OSHA believe the new directive will be in place?

**Response:**

OSHA has not yet announced a publication date, but the agency is working to have the directive in effect as soon as possible.

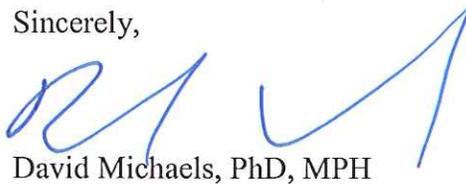
**Question #3** – What outreach activities will OSHA pursue to educate the industry and other stakeholders about any changes contemplated by the agency?

**Response:**

OSHA anticipates issuing national and trade press releases and educational materials, such as fact sheets and webinars, in order to reach the public and affected industries. The agency will also conduct extensive outreach through its ten regional offices and their public affairs departments and through its compliance assistance specialists located in area offices nationwide.

Thank you for your interest in occupational safety and health. We hope you find this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sharon Block in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 693-4600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DM', is positioned above the printed name.

David Michaels, PhD, MPH

cc: Congresswoman Noem, Washington, D.C. Office