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**TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**FROM: DR. JOHN R. STURGUL, PROFESSOR OF MINING ENGR.**

**RE: CAPABILITIES OF SCIENTIFIC CENTER, "MINING TECHNOLOGY" ALMA-ATY,  
KAZAKHSTAN**

**DATE: 21 OCT. 1998**

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I am pleased to give my high recommendation for the scientists and engineers at the Scientific Center, "Mining Technology" at Alma-aty, Kazakhstan.

I visit this Center for several weeks in Aug. of 1997 and was able to review their work. I had been in close contact with people from there prior to this visit and have been keeping in contact since my visit.

The Center has some highly qualified and motivated people working in it. They have developed techniques for mine system simulation from first principals, which is not an easy task. They have been able to apply the results of this work to different mining models, both for surface and underground mines. Their work has many applications for mining systems such as in mine transport, mine design, etc.

This work can be used for non-mining people to assist in making decisions relating to mining operations such as mine investment and mine development.

I am pleased to give this Center the highest recommendation with no reservations.