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MEMORANDUM FOR NEAL H. MERRIFIELD
Acting Administrator for Metal and
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FROM:

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SUBJECT:

Fatality Review Committee Decision on Chargeability

Case No.: 2009-M-52

Deceased:

Date of Incident: October 28, 2009

Date of Death: October 28, 2009

Operator: Illinois Cement Company

Mine: LaSalle Quarry and Mill

Decision: Not chargeable

In a unanimous decision, the Fatality Review Committee has determined that the death of _____ should not be charged to the mining industry. The deceased, a dust collector repairman, and a co-worker were climbing a stairway to check the dust collector. The deceased stopped and sat down on the last section of the stairway. The other employee proceeded to make the required equipment checks. He heard a noise and discovered that _____ had fallen 33 feet to the roof of the Motor Control Center. The deceased was unresponsive when co-workers arrived on the scene and died later at a local emergency facility. The MSHA investigation found that the handrail and midrail were constructed of 1 ¼-inch steel pipe and were in compliance with MSHA standards.

_____ had a history of hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes and high cholesterol. Both the death certificate and coroner's report identified coronary thrombosis as the immediate cause of death secondary to coronary atherosclerosis. The autopsy report showed a 100% right coronary artery occlusion. The autopsy also noted that "A factor significantly contributing to his death is Blunt Head Trauma due to a Fall From Heights." The death was considered to be natural per the death certificate.

Based on the certificate of death, the autopsy report and MSHA's investigation, the committee members concluded that _____ died from natural causes and that his death should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main
Gregory R. Wagner, M.D.