

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
1100 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939



AUG 24 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR NEAL H. MERRIFIELD
Administrator for Metal and
Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health

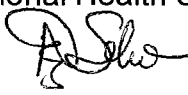
FROM:

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SUBJECT: **Fatality Review Committee Decision on Chargeability**

Case No.: 2010-M-26 

Deceased: 

Date of Incident: June 13, 2010

Date of Death: June 13, 2010

Operator: US Borax, Inc.

Mine: Boron Operations

Decision: Not chargeable

In a unanimous decision, the Fatality Review Committee has determined that the death of [REDACTED] should not be charged to the mining industry. [REDACTED], a 60 year old blaster, was loading and priming holes when he complained of pain in his arm. As he was being driven to the mine health clinic, [REDACTED] began to have chest pains and on arrival at the clinic he vomited and then collapsed. Paramedics at the clinic made an attempt to resuscitate him using a defibrillator. Both the local fire department emergency medical team and the air-evacuation flight rescue team arrived on the scene. Additional efforts to resuscitate the deceased failed and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The MSHA investigation did not identify any physical or environmental hazards at the work site. The certificate of death and the autopsy report indicated that the cause of death was acute thrombosis of the left anterior descending coronary artery secondary to severe coronary atherosclerosis and that the manner of death was natural. The autopsy also showed a 90% occlusion of two coronary arteries and marked left ventricular hypertrophy (enlargement of the heart).

The members of the committee examined the autopsy findings, the death certificate and MSHA's investigation report. The committee concluded that [REDACTED] died from natural causes and that his death should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main
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