

U.S. Department of Labor

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



JAN 27 2012

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.: 2009-M-39

Deceased:

Date of Incident: August 31, 2009

Date of Death: August 31, 2009

Operator: Anglogold Ashanti
(Colorado) Corp.

Mine: Cresson Project

Contractor: RAM Enterprises

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 40 year old contractor millwright, was walking down an incline while threading a cable in a conveyor system when he collapsed. CPR was administered by co-workers but he was pronounced dead at the scene by an ambulance flight crew. [REDACTED] was on his first day of work at this mine site. His duties as a millwright included installing conveyor systems. The mine was at an elevation of 10,000 feet.

The coroner's report listed the cause of death as atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and hypertension with a lack of acclimation to altitude as a possible contributing factor. The coroner also noted obesity and probable hyperlipidemia among other significant conditions. The death certificate indicated that the cause of death was natural and due to an altitude-induced fatal cardiac arrhythmia and coronary artery atherosclerosis.

Based on the findings of the coroner's report and death certificate the committee members concluded that [REDACTED] 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.
Patricia W. Silvey