

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Mine Safety and Health Administration  
201 12th Street South  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452



JUL 07 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR KEVIN G. STRICKLIN  
Administrator for Coal, Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

JEFFREY A. DUNCAN   
Committee Chair  
Director for Educational Policy and Development

SUBJECT: Chargeability Review Decision

**Case No.:** 2015-C-48- [REDACTED]

**Deceased:** [REDACTED]  
Blankenship

**Date of Incident:** December 30, 2015

**Date of Death:** December 30, 2015

**Operator:** Snap Creek Mining, LLC.

**Mine:** No. 1 Load-Out

**Autopsy Conducted:** No

**Death Certificate Released:** January  
11, 2016

**Decision:** Not chargeable

I have reviewed the investigative report in the death of [REDACTED] and determined it should not be charged to the mining industry. [REDACTED] a 46 year old scale house attendant, entered her automobile to drive to the scale house to check a reported issue with the scale card reader. When she placed the car in reverse and began to back up a crash was heard by a witness. The car came to a stop against an I-beam at the crusher. The first responders were unable to find a pulse and CPR was administered until paramedics arrived. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.

The death certificate indicated that the cause of death was sudden death due to atherosclerotic coronary artery disease. No autopsy was performed. MSHA's investigation did not identify any physical or environmental factors that could have contributed to the death.

Based on the death certificate and MSHA's investigation, I have determined that the death of [REDACTED] was not due to mine related work activities and should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main  
Patricia W. Silvey  
Laura V. McClintock