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To: zzMSHA-Standards - Comments to Fed Reg Group
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The easiest way to lower miners' exposure to respirable dust would be to get more fresh air to the working sections. The best way to get more fresh air to the working sections would be to do a better job of sealing the ventilation controls; which channel fresh air coming into the mine to the working faces and carry the respirable dust out of the mine. The more fresh air that reaches the working sections of the mine, the more respirable dust that is removed from the working faces of the mine. The easiest way to get more air into the mine would be to require both sides of the ventilation controls to be sealed, as was required in the early '90's. The less air loss through the ventilation controls because of short circuiting (the air wants to short circuit as soon as it is generated by the mine fan, the majority of air loss occurs within 1000 feet of the mine fan – the air wants to take the path of least resistance) the more fresh air there would be at the face. - The easiest way to test this theory would be to measure how much air is flowing past with one side of the ventilation controls sealed, then seal the backside of the same ventilation controls and measure the c.f.m.'s again. There will be a measurable increase in the volume of air flowing past the controls with both sides sealed. - Better ventilation has enabled the modern miner to retire and still have a life. Improved ventilation and roof control have vastly improved the health and safety of the American miner.

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