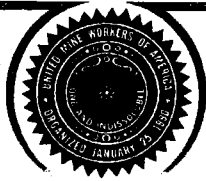


United Mine Workers of America



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22172-1779



April 4, 2012

Joe Main, Assistant Secretary
Mine Safety and Health Administration
1100 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939

Dear Joe,

With the release of the Diesel Exhaust in Miners Study conducted by NIOSH and the NCI, I am writing to inquire what steps your Agency plans to take based on the information learned from this study. We found it disturbing and disappointing that prior to the release of the study, lawyers, for the mining industry were sending vaguely threatening letters to several scientific journals asking for an even further delay on distributing the results of the study. This has been ongoing for two decades and during that time period, many miners across the Country have been, and continue to be, exposed to diesel-powered exhaust. As the research points out, heavy exposure to diesel exhaust increased the risk of death from lung cancer to those exposed to diesel exhaust. The time has come for action now that the Courts have released the information. More importantly, as regulators you owe it to miners to act accordingly regardless of any ongoing threats and court appeals that may arise from the operators.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia mining regulators have already recognized the failures and shortcomings of the Federal diesel regulations that are written as law. Both of these states require state of the art filtration systems, newer engines, higher ventilation requirements, and stringent maintenance plans that far exceed the Federal Standards.

1219-AB86-COMM-21-I, April 4, 2012
Letter from UMWA to Joe Main

received
JMS 4/10/12

On December 22, 2011, Dr. Howard received a letter from Representative John Kline and Representative Tim Walberg acknowledging that Dr. Howard had provided draft copies of the final three journal articles to them and members of the Committee On Education And The Workforce of the United States House of Representatives. They indicated to Dr. Howard that they look forward to working with him to resolve any outstanding issues as soon as reasonably possible. It is our hope that you will also take action by not only making this information available to the miners, but immediately begin to initiate and develop protocols including rulemaking which reflects and incorporates the Pennsylvania and West Virginia diesel standards and to develop proper enforcement tools and other protections to eliminate the hazard. The thousands of dedicated miners that help energize this Country deserve no less.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, email or in writing. Thanking you in advance to your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Dennis O'Dell, Administrator
of Occupational Health and Safety
United Mine Workers of America

CC: President Cecil E. Roberts
Secretary-Treasurer Daniel J. Kane
International Executive Board Vice-Presidents