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Docket: MSHA-2014-0031

Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0031-0076

Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust: Request for Information; Reopening of Rulemaking Record; Extension of Comment Period

Document: MSHA-2014-0031-0084

Comment from anyomus anonymous, NA

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General Comment

California Wild Fires.... MUST be in debate on greenhouse gas (GHG), ozone, particle matters, Diesel Exhaust, MATT, clean air regulations, cross state emissions, Regional Haze Rule, carbon tax, and climate change, more than autos, more than industrial, more than oil and gas business. Wildfires are the biggest threat to ozone and humans and has most deaths This week wildfire in North Calif has taken the lives of over 30 people so far, Smoke from wildfires is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic materials burn. The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles. These microscopic particles can get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they can cause health problems such as burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses such as bronchitis. Fine particles also can aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases - and even are linked to premature deaths in people with these conditions. Wildfire gaseous pollutants are precursors for ozone (O3) production. Millions of acres of forest and grassland have burned. Smoke is a complex mixture of carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, hydrocarbons and other organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides, and trace minerals. The individual compounds present in smoke number in the thousands. Particulate matter is the principal pollutant of concern from wildfire smoke. these particles are within the fine particle PM2.5 fraction and can be inhaled into the deepest recesses of the lung and may represent a greater health concern than larger particles. Another pollutant of concern during smoke events is carbon monoxide, which is a colorless, odorless gas produced by incomplete combustion of wood or other organic materials. Carbon monoxide levels are highest during the smoldering stages of a fire, especially in very

close proximity to the fire. As the smoke moves downwind, it becomes more dilute and often more widespread, eventually reaching ground level into our lakes and rivers, and drinking water. Past practices of extinguishing every fire has not been followed, or cleaning brush and old growth, before the fires start, too much has been concerned with old growth impacts related to ecosystems, birds, and wildlife, instead of humans in the area, which are leading to larger, more intense, more frequent wildfires that threaten life, safety, and property. Wildfire smoke can result in significant air quality impacts to public health, particularly for at-risk groups, and impacts to safety and transportation through diminished visibility on roads and aviation corridors. Wildfire smoke also contains significant quantities of respiratory irritants, which can act in concert to produce eye and respiratory irritation and potentially exacerbate asthma. A tactical plan before fires outlining the critical steps with a cohesive wildland fire management strategy must be done, California should be charged a carbon tax on emission that impact the public health.