

U.S. Department of Labor

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



JAN 27 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: TIMOTHY WATKINS

Deputy Administrator for
Coal Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

JEFFREY A. DUNCAN

Committee Chair

Director for Educational Policy and Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Duncan", written over the printed name.

SUBJECT:

Chargeability Review Decision

Case No.: 2016-C-25- [REDACTED]

Deceased: [REDACTED]

Date of Incident: November 23, 2016

Date of Death: November 23, 2106

Operator: Canyon Fuel Company LLC

Mine: Sufco
MSHA ID 42-00089

Contractor: Van Con Construction
Contractor ID B4652

Autopsy Conducted: Yes

Death Certificate Certified:
November 24, 2016

Decision: Not Chargeable

I reviewed the investigative report in the death of [REDACTED] and determined it should not be charged to the mining industry. [REDACTED], age 27, was a contract welder, fabricator, and project foreman. On the day of the incident, [REDACTED] was on a ladder grinding an I-beam. He came down from the ladder and complained he did not feel well. [REDACTED] sat down stating he felt light-headed as if he could pass out. Soon afterwards, he laid down. About 30 seconds later, co-workers observed [REDACTED] convulsing after attempting to sit up. They went to his aid and found him unconscious.

Additional miners assisted with emergency treatment. When breathing stopped and no carotid pulse was detected, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was initiated. An automated external defibrillator was applied, but no shockable heart rhythm was detected. [REDACTED] was transported by ambulance to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The death certificate states that the manner of death was natural, and the immediate cause of death was "aortic dissection." An autopsy was performed, but not included in the investigative report. MSHA's investigation did not identify any environmental or physical factors that could have contributed to [REDACTED] death.

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

cc: Patricia W. Silvey
Kevin G. Stricklin
Sheila A. McConnell
Marcus A. Smith