

**U.S. Department of Labor**

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



MAY 11 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: MARVIN LICHTENFELS

Deputy Administrator for Metal and Nonmetal  
Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

JEFFREY A. DUNCAN

Committee Chair

Director for Educational Policy and Development

SUBJECT:

Chargeability Review Decision

Case No.: 2017-M-10-

Deceased:

Date of Incident: March 7, 2017

Date of Death: March 7, 2017

Operator: Noranda Alumina

Mine: Gramercy Facility  
MSHA ID 16-00352

Contractor: Granite Services International  
ID A5843

Autopsy Conducted: No

Death Certificate Issued: March 9,  
2017

Decision: Not Chargeable

I reviewed the investigative report in the death of [REDACTED] and determined it should not be charged to the mining industry. Mr. [REDACTED], a 64-year-old contractor supervisor, was responsible for oversight of employees working to service and repair turbine engines. On the date of the incident, he was talking with a field engineer when he suddenly stopped breathing and fell to the floor of the office building located in the powerhouse section of the facility. A call was made to alert first responders who performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and observed [REDACTED] in full cardiac arrest. Mr. Morse was pronounced dead at the mine by a physician a short time later.

The death certificate states that the manner of death was natural, and that the immediate cause of death was ischemic cardiomyopathy. Coronary artery atherosclerosis is listed as leading to the cause of death, and hypertension is listed as an underlying factor. The MSHA investigation did not reveal any environmental or physical conditions that contributed to the 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  
Lawrence Trainor