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Stakeholders' Meeting on	
Refuge Alternatives for	
Underground Coal Mines	
at	
National Mine Health & Safety Academy	
Beaver, West Virginia	
Taken	
on	
October 19, 2015	
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                          APPEARANCES:
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    MODERATOR:
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             Sheila McConnell
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     PANEL MEMBERS:
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              Joseph A. Main, Assistant Secretary
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             Rodney Adamson
             Wesley Shumaker
 8
              Steve Turow
 9
     SPEAKERS:
10
             Randall Harris
             Braden Lusk
11
             Todd Moore
12
             Dennis O'Dell
             Mike Parris
13
             Kyle Perry
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Page 3 PROCEEDINGS 1 2 MS. McCONNELL: We'll go ahead and begin this public meeting. 3 My name is Sheila McConnell. acting director of the Office of Standards, Regulations, 5 and Variances at the Mine Safety and Health Administration. 8 I will be the moderator for this stakeholder meeting on refuge alternatives for 9 underground mines, which is part of the ongoing record 10 for MSHA's request for information on this important 11 subject. 12 On behalf of Assistant Secretary of Labor 13 for MSHA, Joseph A. Main, I am pleased to welcome you 14 here today and thank you for your attendance and 15 participation. 16 17 First, I'd like to introduce our MSHA We have Rodney Adamson from MSHA's Coal Mine 18 Safety and Health, Wes Shumaker from Approval and 19 Certification Center, Technical Support, Steve Turow 20 from our Office of Solicitors. 21 22 We are also pleased to welcome our 23 colleagues from the National Institute for Occupational 24 Safety and Health, NIOSH. We thank NIOSH and its

Page 4

- 1 researchers for their ongoing efforts to provide
- 2 research into the technology, engineering, and
- 3 application of refuge alternatives.
- 4 This is the only meeting of its kind, in
- 5 part because MSHA has already received comments through
- 6 the publication of the Agency's request for information
- 7 in the Federal Register, which held the comment period
- 8 open from August 8th, 2013 to April 2nd, 2015,
- 9 approximately 20 months.
- 10 The comments received today will be
- 11 collected as part of the record, and MSHA will hold the
- 12 comment period open until November 16th, 2015 to allow
- 13 participants to submit additional information,
- 14 comments, and materials. You can review the RFI
- 15 comments on the Agency's website on MSHA.gov or on
- 16 regulations.gov.
- 17 The refuge alternative rule became
- 18 effective on March 2nd, 2009. Over the past six years,
- 19 stakeholders have gained experience and research that
- 20 has led to technological advancements and innovations.
- 21 There are several types of MSHA-approved refuge
- 22 alternatives now in use.
- To benefit from stakeholders' experience
- 24 and research, MSHA published a request for information

Page 5 in the Federal Register asking for data, comments, and 1 information on options that may present even more effective solutions for miners' survival during 3 underground coal mine emergencies than the projections 5 provided by the existing refuge alternative rule. First, I want to underscore an important 6 7 mine emergency principle, embodied by both MSHA and the 8 mining community. It is a longstanding principle that, in the event of a mine emergency underground, the first 9 line of defense is for the miner to try to escape. 10 Only if escape is impossible should the 11 refuge alternative be used. If that situation does 12 occur, a refuge alternative must provide a protected, 13 secure space with an isolated atmosphere that creates a 14 life-sustaining environment to protect miners until 15 rescue or until they can escape. 16 Today, we are asking coal mine operators, 17 18 miners, equipment manufacturers, academia and the members of the public to provide us information on two 19 critical issues on refuge alternatives. 20 First, MSHA is seeking solutions for 21 22 providing a clean air supply and sufficient air pressure into a built-in-place shelter when a borehole 23

directly into the refuge is unavailable.

Page 6 seeking solutions for piping air safely through a mine 1 to a built-in-place shelter. If air is piped through a mine over 3 several miles, protection of that piping from routine 5 mining activities can become an impediment to use for a built-in-place shelter. 6 Second, miners' ability to communicate 8 with each other is critical during mine emergencies. Miners must remove the mouthpiece of a self-contained 9 self-rescue device to speak or remove the full-face 10 respirator mask of a self-contained breathing apparatus 11 to clearly communicate. 12 These actions expose miners to deadly gas 13 in the mine and atmosphere. We are seeking solutions 14 that would allow two-way communication between miners 15 wearing breathing apparatus. 16 17 In addition, in the notice of this 18 meeting, MSHA also requested information on impediments and solutions related to the use of built-in-place 19 shelters, the advantages and disadvantages of using 20 self-contained breathing apparatus with refill stations 21 22 as an escape strategy, and the scope and status of new technology for recent research related to the 23

installation and use of built-in-place refuge.

Page 7 In its report "Facilitating the Use of 1 2 Built-In-Place Refuge Alternatives in Mines," NIOSH made recommendations on the use of built-in-place shelters as a type of refuge with a superior environment when compared to tent and steel fabricated structures. 5 6 NIOSH's recommendations included allowing 7 built-in-place shelters meeting certain conditions to 8 be placed farther away from the working face than under current regulations which require a refuge alternative 9 within one thousand feet of the face. 10 MSHA encourages all stakeholders to 11 review NIOSH's report and recommendations and to 12 comment on the advantages and disadvantages of NIOSH's 13 recommended approach, 14 the feasibility of installing built-in-15 place shelters in different mine conditions and the use 16 17 of surface-supplied air and other concerns with builtin-place shelters. 18 MSHA also requests discussion on the 19 advantages and disadvantages of using a self-contained 20 21 breathing apparatus with refill stations, as compared 22 to a self-contained self-rescue device with caches in escapeways and how it will improve escape plans using 23 24 enhanced respirator technologies.

Page 8 1 Finally, on the topic of new technology and research, MSHA requests stakeholders discuss and 2 describe new and improved technology for built-in-place 3 refuge designs, including the impact of these designs on the economic and technological feasibility of using 5 built-in-place shelters. 6 7 This stakeholder meeting will be conducted in an informal manner. The panel may ask questions of the participants, and the participants may 9 ask questions of the panel. MSHA is making a 10 transcript of this stakeholder meeting and will post it 11 on the Agency's website within two weeks. 12 If you wish to present written 13 statements, questions, or information today, please 14 clearly identify your material and give it to the court 15 reporter. You may also submit comments following the 16 hearing by any of the methods identified in the Addresses 17 section in the stakeholder meeting notice. 18 Those of you that have notified MSHA in 19 advance of your intent to speak will make your 20 presentations first, followed by those who signed up to 21 22 speak today. After all of the scheduled speakers have 23 finished, others can request to speak. 24 If you have a hard copy or an electronic

Page 9 version of your presentation, we would appreciate that 1 you give a copy of that to the court reporter as well. I hope everyone has signed the attendance sheet. 3 Before we begin our discussion today and 4 5 hear from you, I would like to introduce Joseph A. Main, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and 6 7 Health. 8 Mr. Main? Thanks, Sheila, and thanks for 9 MR. MAIN: the work that you folks did to put today's session 10 together. We have folks with us from - as Sheila 11 mentioned - from Tech Support, SOL, and folks that's 12 been working on the refuge alternative issue for quite 13 some time. 14 So why are we holding this public meeting 15 If you look at the one point that Sheila had today? 16 17 raised, is that we have six years' experience now with the refuge alternative systems that went into effect 18 post-Sago, and we've learned a lot from those, as we 19 have deployment in the mines. 20 The good news is that, you know, we 21 22 really haven't had one they had to use for survival,

although there's a few cases that we wish that we have,

in terms of the impact of the mining accidents.

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Page 10 If you look historically at mine rescue 1 work, it tells us that in a number of these circumstances when we have a mine emergency, we don't 3 get there really quick, and I just used in the benchmarks UBB from Monday to Saturday, Jim Walters, 5 six weeks to locate the last miner. 6 Wilberg was one of the longest of modern 8 history, took us more than a year to locate - or right at one year - to locate the last victim. 9 So there's reasons why we encourage a 10 system to be in place that has the first action of the 11 miners to escape the section. A second action is for 12 the miners to escape. 13 The third action is for the miner to 14 escape when all else fails, look at the alternatives 15 that we have, because in some of these, we're not quick 16 17 to rescue and that's for all the obvious reasons. 18 We spent a lot of money and time over the last four to five years to go over all our mine 19 emergency response capabilities, and we have probably 20 the best we've ever had in mine emergency history. 21 We've developed the technologies to have 22 2.3 direct communication between the advancing team and the command center, and Todd Moore, who is here, we had a 24

Page 11

- 1 chance to spend about a week this spring up at the
- 2 Harvey Complex to work with all of the CONSOL teams
- 3 and to test out the equipment and to look at the bugs
- 4 we have and to build a better mousetrap.
- 5 You know, that's going to be a major
- 6 change in how we do mine rescuing for the first time
- 7 and to have actual direct communications between the
- 8 command center and rescue teams. That's going to give
- 9 us the opportunity to do things quicker and safer.
- We've also redesigned our mapping
- 11 process, and so that the waiting for the handheld map
- 12 to come out, maybe hours later, and just to verify,
- "Oh, that's not what we thought."
- 14 We're gonna do mapping at the command
- 15 center and sending it back to the fresh air face, which
- is gonna speed up the process of knowing what we know,
- 17 so to speak.
- But, you know, with all of those and all
- 19 of the other improvements, we still have this dilemma
- 20 about how we can get the miner out of the mine as quick
- 21 as we can and to set up a strategy to give the miners
- 22 every opportunity for survival as they do that, and
- 23 that's the reason we have the two issues that's front
- 24 and center.

Page 12 We looked at the information that came 1 back through the request for information that we put out, and we extended that four times since we've began 3 in an effort to just keep getting more information in, but I think to fix the problem of that in a refuge 5 area, we've got to figure out an engineering solution 6 7 to how we manage supplying air to those facilities for 8 both breathable air and for both pressurizing a refuge area to keep the contaminants out, and that's one of 9 the reasons we'd really like to hear from folks about 10 how we can do that. 11 And if you look at some of the mining 12 set-ups we have today and think about some of these 13 super-longwall gate roads that are 20,000 feet long and 14 what you think about decisions that miners have to make 15 to run back to that face to get out of here, "Where do 16 17 I get out?" 18 And building some systems like I saw at the Billiton Mine out in New Mexico where they went to 19 a safe haven area as part of their concept, 20 essentially, I think we really need to take a look at 21 22 how can we design a system that lets miners have an advantage as to get out of the mine to have a place to 23 go to, as opposed to, you know, heading back in to get 24

Page 13 out, which, you know, there has been folks that have 1 questioned that, a lot of people, and I think rightfully so. 3 So we're looking for all of the input we 5 can get on how we can -- to have, in the future, some refuge alternative concepts that would include safe 6 7 havens, and I asked folks guite a bit, "Do you like the 8 US model or the Chilean model," and that gets to this concept of having a wider area to be able to manage. 9 We've never faced a situation where you 10 may have an event where miners are injured or in masks 11 and locked into a refuge alternative and what happens 12 psychologically as people spend time there, laying 13 beside each other with whatever, you know, and how long 14 do they stay there before we make a decision after they 15 made a decision to go, to stay there. 16 17 And there's a lot of things that I think 18 we have to think about, and we have an opportunity to take a pause here and figure out what is it we could do 19 to build a better mousetrap for escape and 20 opportunities and safe haven opportunities and refuge 21 22 opportunities for miners, and how does that work within the confines of the systems we already have in place 23 that a lot of mines are gonna be running probably for 24

Page 14

- 1 quite some time.
- We have a deadline coming up on December
- 3 of 2018 when all of these refuge alternatives have to
- 4 be certified.
- 5 Our folks are working on getting guidance
- 6 together and that will be coming out in the next few
- 7 months to make sure that we have everybody on board
- 8 and understanding what that certification requirement
- 9 is gonna be.
- 10 And it's my hope that we don't do what we
- 11 did last time, 'cause last time the certification, we
- 12 were running to the wire to get ourselves there, but to
- 13 have a plan of action that gets those certifications in
- 14 place, whatever they may be, in time to reach those.
- But the primary purpose today is really
- 16 to talk about the engineering things we need to develop
- 17 and understand to get us to a better refuge alternative
- 18 system for the miners.
- The second issue, this is the one I've
- 20 been on a number of mine emergencies in my life, and I
- 21 could tell you, I have this real clear, that with all
- that we're doing, we're not giving our miners the kind
- 23 of opportunity that we need to give.
- About two weeks ago, a week ago, whatever

Page 15 it was, I was at the Cumberland Mine in Pennsylvania, 1 and we had the opportunity to go through the smoke trailer, which many folks who have not been through smoke 3 won't understand what that means, and I had the chief of staff for the Department of Labor with us and the 5 lady who just became our new deputy with MSHA, and 6 7 I had to tell them about what we was holding this 8 meeting for. So when we get the opportunity to go into 9 the smoke trailer, and we're tethered together, and the 10 chief of staff, or Secretary Perez was, like, two or 11 three feet behind me, and the person right ahead of me 12 was the one who was trying to, like, tell us, 'cause we 13 had a little more twists and turns, and in the smoke, 14 you can't see. 15 You know, you see clear at the fog light, 16 17 and when everybody come out of there, they understood exactly what I was talking about. The fellow that was 18 ahead of me, two back, goes, "What was he saying? 19 was" --20 I said, "Yeah, just picture yourself in a 21 22 mine, you've got a mile to go, and you're caught in

smoke, and what are you gonna do with that mouthpiece?"

I mean, it's -- so I would like to focus

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Page 16 our attention on trying to figure out how we can build 1 communications into the mouthpiece, into the circuit, into the system, where miners can actually communicate 3 without breaking that closed circuit breathing system 5 that we now have. So those are two things I think are 6 7 really critical as we move forward. We really would 8 like to get some feedback from folks on how do we fix those and what is the real opportunity here, because I 9 think just putting money into a system to say that we 10 have a system that meets a certain standard is not good 11 enough. 12 I think we have to take a step back, what 13 do the miners really need in this country and what do 14 we really need to do to get those systems in place so 15 they really work for miners if they have to have them. 16 17 That's the challenge, that's what we're 18 trying to get back into us so that we can make some good decisions about how we move forward. 19 And with that, Sheila, I will turn the 20 pulpit back over to you. 21 22 But we really need input from the public, 2.3 from the folks who are at this hearing, folks in the mining community, and the manufacturers to help us find

Page 17 some answers. Thank you. 1 Thank you, Mr. Main. MS. MCCONNELL: have a few speakers who have signed up. Our first 3 speaker today is Mike Parris. 5 Mr. Parris, if you will say your name to the court reporter and spell it. 6 MR. PARRIS: Mike Parris, P-A-R-I-S. 7 8 I'd like to thank MSHA for reopening the record and holding today's meeting. 9 While I hope to submit comments that 10 address particularly the questions raised by MSHA 11 today, I want to make some general comments, and I've 12 worked with some of the people here in the room in an 13 official capacity and perhaps as an adversarial 14 capacity. 15 And the comments I'm making today, I'm 16 17 making in an individual capacity, in that I don't 18 presume to be speaking for the operator to whom I work today, although I hope in working with my employer, 19 that we may provide comments on the record. 20 comments I make today are my own as an individual. 21 22 First, I recommend that MSHA extend the 23 December 31st, 2018 deadline for parts and structure approvals for operators who are willing to partner with 24

Page 18 the Agency and work on a practical game plan in their 1 mines to address the integration of these new emerging technologies in their emergency response plans that is 3 related to the December 31st, 2018 deadline. 5 This consideration is provided in that Those operators may continue to use their 6 manner. 7 currently deployed refuge alternatives and not be 8 forced into adopting a compliant solution far enough in advance so that everything is in place on that 9 deadline. 10 I think that the effect will be -- well, 11 one of the things that I personally don't want to see 12 is any of the technologies that are discussed in the 13 request for information fail to be adopted because of 14 problems in the approval process that lead to a delayed 15 adoption by operators. 16 17 That I believe if we work together in a 18 real -- in a meaningful way as operators with the Agency, with NIOSH, and with manufacturers, we can work 19 out how these systems actually will apply and work 20 together in time so that they could be deployed 21 22 widespread in our mines. 23 And on the other hand, operators who choose to continue to invest exclusively in portable 24

deadline.

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refuge alternatives will not necessarily need to be really involved in the December 31st, 2018 approval My expectation is that there will be any number of options available to those operators, where they will be able to achieve or comply to some solution easily by December the 31st, 2018. So I do not believe that the Agency need unilaterally waive the upcoming I believe that there can be good reasons to do so in specific instances that are advantageous to everybody, but I would not want to encourage a system that allowed dilatory action on the part of some

Page 19

- Second, even though I share NIOSH's hope 15
- for the widespread adoption of built-in-place refuge 16
- 17 alternatives, we need to closely examine their proposal
- 18 that built-in-place refuge alternatives be allotted
- distances as great as 5,000 feet from the face. 19

operators to become even more delayed.

- As part of NIOSH's early work on refuge 20
- 21 alternatives, a NIOSH contractor performed an extensive
- 22 study of several mine disasters and evaluated whether a
- 23 refuge alternative of 1,000 feet, 2,000 feet, or
- further outby would have facilitated survival. 24

Page 20 Notably, the NIOSH contractor 1 concluded that a refuge alternative at either 1,000 or 2,000 feet from the face would've benefited the miners 3 at Sago, and they concluded that an outby refuge may 5 not have done so. The location of the built-in-place refuge 6 7 alternative should be supported by a careful review of 8 a mine's emergency response plan. However, I believe that these and other potential issues can be addressed 9 fairly simply. 10 11 MSHA should allow mines that deploy built-in-place refuge alternatives to continue to 12 deploy their existing portable refuge alternatives as 13 disabled miner emergency stations within a thousand 14 feet of the face, provided that they can accommodate 15 five miners under the part 7 structural 16 17 requirements. History has shown, time and again, on the 18 devotion that miners have for each other and their 19 heroism, a disabled miner may not be physically capable 20 of traveling 5,000 feet to a built-in-place refuge 21 22 alternative. 2.3 If operators are allowed to continue using their existing portable refuge alternatives as 24

Page 21 disabled miner emergency stations, we can achieve the 1 greatest degree of safety for all of our miners while also working to improve escape. 3 I really believe that it is vital that we 4 5 contemplate refuge alternatives within the context of the miners who are most likely to require refuge, and 6 7 those are the miners who are least likely to be able to 8 escape, disabled miners. So we need to work together to make sure 9 that the emergency response plans that we've put 10 together that integrate the current technology and this 11 emerging technology appropriately factor in disabled 12 miners and also to make sure that we don't end up with 13 a solution that wouldn't have been deployed at Sago, 14

17 Thank you.

consider closely.

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- MS. MCCONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Parris. I
- 19 have one question, and then I'll turn it to the panel

and that, I think, is something that we need to

- 20 to see if they have any others.
- As you began, you recommended extending
- 22 the 2018 deadline to integrate some -- and consider new
- 23 technologies. Could you discuss some of the new
- 24 technologies you have seen that MSHA should consider?

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Page 22
                                Oh, definitely.
                   MR. PARRIS:
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     the --
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Could you provide some
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 4
     examples?
                                        The refillable self-
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                   MR. PARRIS:
                                Sure.
     rescuers and the self-rescuer technology that uses
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 7
     liquid air and have the full-face mask, these are very
 8
     potentially life-saving technologies, that if they are
     developed, approved, marketed, and deployed should
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     eliminate the need for miners to need to go into the
10
     refuge alternative.
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                   The thing that we want to work toward is,
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     we don't want to end up eliminating those technologies
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     because of their relative point in development.
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                   Some of these technologies are barely off
     the drawing board into the prototype stage, much less
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     reaching the point where they are mature enough to be
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     submitted to the Agency for various approvals, and then
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     once -- and then once those approvals are in line, are
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     mature enough to be mass-produced and marketed to
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21
     operate.
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                   So rather than -- well, in order to
     encourage operators to explore these technologies,
23
     rather than simply go and get a portable refuge
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Page 23
     alternative design that is very mature and likely to
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     receive its approval years in advance of the deadline.
                   I mean, that's the easiest way to achieve
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     compliance, is going to be to do exactly that.
 5
     has to be some incentive for operators to go that extra
     mile with you, and I think that that's one way that we
 6
 7
     could do it.
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                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   Okay, thank you.
                   Mr. Main, do you have --
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                   MR. MAIN:
                              That was one of my questions.
     What are the options? What are all the alternatives
11
     that we should be looking at, in terms of the overall
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     escape strategy and, you know, how would we work at it.
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                   I think what I hear you saying is that
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     the fillable air with the face mask that has a
15
     communication system in it helps facilitate escape,
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17
     there's a lesser need for refuge alternatives,
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     something like that.
                               Oh, yes. Exactly.
                   MR. PARRIS:
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     there -- the means for providing breathable air to
20
     built-in-place refuge alternatives are interesting, as
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     far as the borehole delivery plans and the potential
22
     use of cryogenic air supply systems.
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24
                   These are systems that -- well,
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Page 24

- 1 especially the cryogenic air supply systems that were
- 2 developed for portable refuge alternatives, I think
- 3 actually have a superior possibility for deployment in
- 4 built-in-place refuge alternatives.
- 5 But these technologies may not be
- 6 developed sufficiently to be deployed prior to December
- 7 31st, 2018, and we need to be in a position to actually
- 8 put together a plan that contemplates their use in
- 9 regard to the self-rescuers, the breathable air
- 10 supplies, and everything else.
- 11 The -- again, for example, the compressed
- 12 air systems that are contemplated, the questions about
- 13 running compressed air lines through mines to either
- 14 portable refuge alternatives or built-in-place refuge
- 15 alternatives eventually will mature to a point where
- 16 what we're contemplating is a breathable air system
- 17 that has to be integrated into a stopping for a
- 18 built-in-place refuge.
- 19 So that there will be, eventually, where
- 20 not only would the MSHA district manager approving
- 21 stopping walls, but also with Tech Support in approving
- 22 the way that delivery system is plumbed into the --
- 23 through the wall into the built-in-place refuge
- 24 alternative.

Page 25 And this -- these things we've seen take 1 time, and it's an easier trip to take. You're taking an operator that is willing to partner with you, rather 3 than allow time to progress to the point where it 5 becomes an adversarial relationship. MR. MAIN: And, again, I think on that 6 7 point as well, I mean, we do have the options now, the 8 current standards, for built-in-place shelters, and we are encouraging folks to help the miners inside on that 9 in a way that helps develop some kind of engineering 10 style that can be innovated. 11 Do you know what I'm saying? 12 MR. PARRIS: No, I do. 13 MR. MAIN: You know, that doesn't, you 14 know, require a lot of extra assessments. 15 16 MR. PARRIS: No, I agree. 17 I think that -- what's difficult for me 18 to anticipate from the Agency is how the Agency will contend with the part 7 structural approvals 19 for the existing and contemplated January 1st, 2019 20 portable designs, while at the same time providing the 21 22 support necessary to develop the regulatory framework to have these other technologies introduced. 2.3 24 I don't know how you guys are going to do

Page 26 that without help from operators and also from NIOSH. 1 I think that we're going to have to work together. MR. MAIN: And I think that's part of 3 what this whole exercise is about, to learn and figure 5 out what options are out there. MS. MCCONNELL: Exactly. 6 7 Wes, do you have anything? 8 MR. SHUMAKER: No. MS. MCCONNELL: Anyone? 9 Mr. Parris, thank you very much for your 10 testimony today. 11 MR. PARRIS: Thank you. 12 MS. MCCONNELL: We appreciate you coming 13 forward. 14 15 I'd like to introduce our next speaker, Kyle Perry. 16 17 MR. PERRY: Good afternoon. 18 MS. MCCONNELL: Mr. Perry, could you state your name and spell it for the court reporter and 19 your organization. 20 21 MR. PERRY: Sure. My name is Kyle Perry, K-Y-L-E, P-E-R-R-Y. 22 23 I'm an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky in mining engineering, and 24

Page 27 today, I'm going to kind of talk hopefully about the 1 academic side and the research side, as far as the structural components for these refuge alternative 3 built-in-place. 5 So about four years ago, we started looking at how can we come up with a structural wall to 6 7 aid in built-in-place. 8 Kentucky funded myself and Doctor Lusk on a research project looking at polycarbonate safe haven 9 walls, and the idea behind that was putting a wall in 10 -- across that somewhere, and the polycarbonate, we've 11 dealt with a lot for window systems, for glass 12 resistance, for bunkers and things like that. 13 So we thought this is a newer technology, 14 I guess, than brick and mortar, and it's even more so. 15 The advantages of polycarbonate is that it's clear. 16 17 So, Mr. Main, you were talking about 18 getting those guys out as quick as we can and the mine rescue teams going in. Having it clear, they'd be able 19 to go in, look into this room, if nobody's in there, 20 they can keep moving. 21 22 They don't have to waste their time opening a door that may have possibly been damaged or 23

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not functioning anymore.

Page 28 So we came up with a polycarbonate wall 1 system that worked out pretty well, and we installed it in a mine, and it gained the attention of an operator 3 who already has components in place and approved for 5 breathable air systems. It caught their attention, they wanted to 6 further the development of this and come up with what 7 8 we've got now, which is an expandable polycarbonate wall, and it can be made out of polycarbonate or steel, 9 we can interchange sections, with either, basically, a 10 windowpane or a steel plate. 11 It can range from 41 inches tall up to --12 43 inches tall up to 71 inches tall, and, currently, 13 we've got the application in to MSHA, we will receive 14 the first comments back and just put in our revisions. 15 A couple things we saw, the Safety Factor 16 17 2 was applied to the design load of 15 PSI. 18 One question is why, with a safety factor of 2, is there a reason I know the 15 PSI was the 0-1519 PSI over 100 milliseconds and back down from the --20 from the data recorded, I think and I believe, but is 21 -- why -- we don't understand kind of the arbitrary, 22 "Why Safety Factor 2," whenever we don't know the last 23 -- there's only gonna be a 15 PSI or not. 24

Page 29 A couple things. The door itself within 1 this wall is a circular door also made out of polycarbonate. All -- basically, instead of having a 3 steel panel on there, you can put on the door. bolt it to a frame. It's basically a steel frame with 5 interchangeable panels. 6 7 The door - we can also bolt in - is a 8 30-inch-diameter door sealed with -- there's a grouted area in the -- in the plate or backing, and that door 9 has a rubber sealing on it enclosed with a simple 10 11 latch. With that, it may sound weak. 12 tested that actually in an explosive chamber up beyond 13 30 PSI dynamic pressure, which I think's more than 14 enough to sustain 15 or 30 PSI. 15 One of the comments we got back was the 16 17 anchorage into the roof and floor and the coal ribs 18 themselves, and as a practicing professional engineer, some of the comments that are made may not make 19 engineering sense to the designers, but it seems like 20 sometimes we overkill these things a little bit, we're 21 22 putting a safety factor of two on it, and we're putting 23 in supports that aren't gonna make a difference. 24 And I just want to -- I know Mr. Main

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Page 30
     said something about you guys are gonna be finding
 1
     guidance here pretty soon in a couple months, the
     process of getting these things approved, and I just
     want to make sure you guys are thorough and have a
 5
     pretty good list of what we're gonna need to do to get
     these things approved, so I think that's it.
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 7
                   So thank you very much.
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                   MS. MCCONNELL: Well, thank you.
                   MR. PERRY: Any questions for me, guys?
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                   MS. MCCONNELL: Do you have anything
10
11
     else?
                   MR. SHUMAKER:
                                  The review of your
12
     structure, now, that procedure really isn't part of the
13
     2018 structural requirement --
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                   MR. PERRY: Okay.
15
                   MR. SHUMAKER: -- because that is a 15
16
17
     PSI stopping that is really approved through the
18
     district --
                   MR. PERRY: Uh-huh.
19
                   MR. SHUMAKER: -- by the district
20
21
     manager.
              However, that's normally sent to our
22
     Pittsburgh Technology Center.
2.3
                   MR. PERRY:
                              Right.
24
                   MR. SHUMAKER: Again, that's where our
```

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Page 31
     structural guys are --
 1
                   MR. PERRY:
                               Uh-huh.
                   MR. SHUMAKER: -- and that's who's doing
 3
     the review of your design right now.
 5
                   MR. PERRY: Uh-huh.
                   MR. SHUMAKER: And I know you have some
 6
 7
     specific questions on your design, and I might have to
 8
     talk to the engineer doing the review to see exactly.
 9
                   MR. PERRY: Okay.
                   MR. SHUMAKER: I'm just -- I'm not
10
     familiar enough with --
11
                               Okay.
                   MR. PERRY:
12
                   MR. SHUMAKER: -- your design package to
13
     be able to answer those questions right now.
14
                   MR. PERRY: Okay, no problem.
15
                                   I just have just a couple
16
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
     of questions. I'm vaguely familiar with your design,
17
18
     and not specifics, but it seems like this is a portable
     type of wall; is that correct?
19
                              Basically, we designed it to
20
                   MR. PERRY:
     be expandable for certain designs up to about 12
21
22
     inches.
23
                   So if a mine says, "Oh, we're mining 48
     inches," you know it's not gonna be 48 everywhere.
24
```

Page 32 we can design one to be the average of 48 and can be 1 installed, expanded, or shrunken down. But, yes, we can put it in, we can 3 uninstall it, move it, and reinstall it --5 MS. MCCONNELL: So it can move --MR. PERRY: -- all in under six hours. 6 7 MS. MCCONNELL: Okay. So it can move as 8 the face advances. MR. PERRY: If you want to, yeah. 9 MS. MCCONNELL: Okay. What would be the 10 air supply going into the --11 MR. PERRY: Breathable air system from 12 the surface. 13 MS. MCCONNELL: And so this would be, 14 like, a -- like a borehole that you would --15 MR. PERRY: Either a borehole or piped-in 16 17 air from the surface throughout the mine, yes. 18 MS. MCCONNELL: And thinking about some of the other NIOSH criteria, in terms of positive 19 pressure, that's also part of it as well. 20 MR. PERRY: Yeah. 21 22 MS. MCCONNELL: Okay. 23 MR. MAIN: In terms of the pipeable air that was on that -- the distance that you've looked at 24

Page 33 that you've been able to engineer all of the air in, 1 the -- have you handled condensation and those kind of things? 3 I think the next presenter 4 MR. PERRY: has a -- is gonna be talking a whole lot about the --5 the distances and those kind of issues. 6 7 familiar on the air side of it; I'm more on the 8 structural part of it. Yeah, and I think it would be 9 MR. MAIN: helpful, too, with the issues you raised about the 10 anchoring, where there's maybe some requirements that's 11 being added that doesn't have any significant thing to 12 do with --13 MR. PERRY: With structural integrity of 14 15 the wall. And it would be interesting to 16 MR. MAIN: 17 see what those are --18 MR. PERRY: Sure. 19 -- so we can take a look at MR. MAIN: 20 them. And I've got -- I can provide 21 MR. PERRY: 22 -- I'm not sure about the online submittal for written comments, if you can put in pictures or anything like 23 24 that.

```
Page 34
 1
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Yes, you can put -- you
     can put videos --
                              I'll be happy to go back and
 3
                   MR. PERRY:
     provide a lot of those things in there and talk about
 5
     the anchorage as well.
 6
                              That would be good.
                   MR. MAIN:
 7
                   MR. PERRY:
                               Okay.
 8
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   Thank you very much.
                                      Thank you.
                   MR. PERRY: Okay.
 9
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Mr. Braden Lusk?
10
                   Please state your name and spell it for
11
     the court reporter and your --
12
                   MR. LUSK: Braden Lusk.
13
                   MS. MCCONNELL: -- and your organization.
14
15
                   MR. LUSK: Okay. Braden Lusk,
     B-R-A-D-E-N, L-U-S-K, and I'm also with the University
16
17
     of Kentucky.
                   I'm a professor of mining engineering.
18
                   So what I would like to address with you
     guys today is some research that we've been performing
19
     on the protection of compressed air lines for
20
     breathable air into built-in-place refuge alternatives.
21
22
                   I think one of the things that has been
23
     mentioned a few times today is with regards to the 2018
     approval for refuge alternatives and the deadline
24
```

Page 35 that's looming on that. 1 I think the guidelines that you guys would produce are gonna be very, very important for 3 successful implementation of engineering solutions. One of the issues that you brought up 5 about the differences in approval processes between 15 6 PSI walls and refuge alternative boxes is one of the 7 8 major sticking points for a lot of these engineering solutions, in my opinion. 9 I think if you look at the level of 10 investment that's going to be required to come up with 11 an engineering solution for a built-in-place chamber, 12 you really need to have some guidance as to how those 13 approval processes are different and how each one of 14 those needs to be addressed, whether you're looking at 15 completing a plan with refuge boxes or if you're going 16 17 with built-in-place refuge alternatives. 18 That's gonna allow the operators to make the decisions for their specific mine plans and make 19 solutions that are, indeed, engineered solutions for 20 each individual situation. 21 22 There's a large amount of current 23 research that is going on right now with regards to built-in-place refuge alternatives at NIOSH. 24

Page 36 doing projects on protecting compressed air lines. 1 I think there's other people that are also working on wall solutions for 15 PSI stoppings. 3 So I think there are a fair amount of people that are involved with trying to provide solutions for this 5 problem. 6 7 One of the things that I would suggest is 8 looking at this as an engineering problem. In order to do that, we need to understand what we're trying to do 9 with a refuge alternative, and if you look specifically 10 at a built-in-place refuge alternative, the question 11 What are we trying to protect from? 12 And I think if you look at the solution, 13 maybe not in total, but I can name four specific things 14 that we need to address, and those would include 15 typical mine wear and corrosion. 16 17 So once you install these, you have 18 operations going on in the mine where things would bump into them, equipment, just typical wear-and-tear 19 equipment that would be in a mine. 20 You also have the blast pressure from an 21 22 event that you're trying to protect these people from, if there is an explosion. 23

You have potential for debris impact in

Page 37 one of those events, and then you also have protection 1 following a disaster, whether there's fire or heat involved that could impair the ability of these 3 solutions to provide their life-sustaining mission. 5 In order for us to come to a design 6 that's appropriate to meet or exceed these standards, 7 we need to develop some type of design basis for that, 8 and what I mean by that is, what you -- what you guys -- you typically have as guidelines. 9 A design basis threat. We're looking at 10 Is that, indeed, a 15 PSI threat that we're a 15 PSI. 11 designing for, or is it a 15 PSI threat with a safety 12 13 factor of two? What does the shape look like? A lot of those things are currently in 14 15 the regulations as it stands, but we also need to look at the other components as well, what type of wear and 16 corrosion we're looking at, what type of impact are we 17 18 trying to sustain, and these -- I think these can be developed through calculations and through research 19 that is ongoing right now within NIOSH and other 20 agencies. 21 Specifically, to speak to some of the 22 23 tests that we're doing on protecting compressed air

lines, some of the things that we're working on

Page 38 specifically are varying types and grades of pipe 1 exposed to blast pressures. We're also looking at how they are 3 exposed to different, varying levels of impact and 5 calculating what energies we would suspect from a typical explosion and what loading would occur 6 following that, and what type of protection is required 7 8 to ensure the integrity of these lines. The research is ongoing, and hopefully 9 we're gonna have some concrete conclusions in the near 10 future with that, but I think the point is, there's a 11 lot of work going on in this area, and I think moving 12 forwards towards 2018, my fear is that the research 13 will not get completed in time for built-in-place 14 alternatives to be a viable solution for compliance, 15 and, thus, drive us to possibly an erroneous decision 16 17 for some specific applications. 18 Now, I'm not saying that I know that built-in-place is the only alternative for all 19 situations, but I think there is some combination, and 20 21 I think that really needs to be investigated. 22 Thank you. Mr. Main? 2.3 MS. MCCONNELL: 24 In terms of, you know, the MR. MAIN:

Page 39 basic question with supplying air, what particular 1 research led you to believe that, and is that supported as far as the distance and to control condensation and 3 those kind of things? MR. LUSK: Yeah, I think there's 5 definitely a lot -- there's a lot to look at there, and 6 7 we are looking at some of that. 8 What I will say is, I think the individual solutions for compressed breathable air are 9 as diverse as the mine plans that they'll be exposed 10 11 to. But it is an engineering design problem, 12 and I think we can develop systems, whether it be the 13 sizing of pipe or the storage of supplemental 14 compressed air so that you're not basically emptying 15 out the pipelines and not able to generate enough 16 pressure to hold. All of these things can be designed. 17 18 We've actually run tests on pressure drop and flow drop. We've gone out to 10, 12 thousand feet, 19 and we've seen calculations for doing 20, 25 thousand feet. 21 22 What you're looking at is what type of pipe, what type of resistances and flow that you need 23

there, and those are the -- some of the types of things

Page 40 that we're working on, supplemental to the, I guess, 1 more direct impact things in our research right now. And I'd be willing to share -- I've got 3 just a little bit of information here. It's not really 5 concrete conclusions, but it shows a little bit of the direction of the research that we're looking at. 6 MS. MCCONNELL: If you could provide that 8 to the court reporter, we would appreciate that. I will. And I will also --9 MR. LUSK: 10 MS. MCCONNELL: Submit it through the records at regulations.gov or --11 MR. LUSK: Yeah, I'll try to submit some 12 written comments and kind of detail what we're actually 13 looking at in that respect. 14 Okay, excellent. 15 MS. MCCONNELL: When we talk about -- when we 16 MR. TUROW: 17 look at the December 2018 deadline, we're still talking about 26 months out. 18 I'm just interested in some of the 19 hurdles that are in place that would make that date a 20 hard deadline to reach, in terms of the research that 21 22 you're doing, and then a sense for how long it would take to finish the kind of research you think is 23 necessary to develop input necessary to figure out the 24

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Page 41
     supply of air in built-in-place refuges.
 1
                   MR. LUSK: Well, I think as far as the
     design of a system that you can put in place, as far as
 3
     sizing pipe, what length you need, what size of
     compressor flow requirements, that's a relatively --
 5
     that's a relatively quick calculation that you can do.
 6
 7
                   The question is: What types of
 8
     preparation will you have to do in order for that
     system to be approved to be installed? Will it need to
 9
     be buried? Will there need to be a trench?
10
     have to go across different crosscuts in a different,
11
     varying manner?
12
                   What type of elbows would be able to use,
13
     the actual interface between the built-in-place or
14
     refuge chamber and that breathable air? Does it have
15
     to come out of the trench and then into that at a
16
17
     90-degree angle? Does it go underneath it?
18
                   There are a lot of things that, as
     engineers, we can design solutions for, but those
19
     solutions are really meaningless if they're not
20
     approved.
21
22
                   And that's not to say that they aren't
     good solutions, but sometimes, there are other
23
     information that's available to Tech Support that they
24
```

Page 42 may not approve of those systems. 1 And it's -- it's a very long and arduous 2 process to actually get those systems approved, not to 3 mention the fact that there's research that will 5 potentially be coming out in the next maybe 12 to 18 months where the reports are coming out basically less 6 than a year before this approval needs to happen. 7 8 And it's -- it's really just hard to turn those research results into commercialized products in 9 less than a year. 10 MS. MCCONNELL: I just have one -- this 11 conversation provoked a question. 12 MR. LUSK: 13 Sure. 14 MS. MCCONNELL: And excuse my naivete, but how would your -- your compressed air solution, as 15 you discussed it, seemed somewhat permanent and labor-16 17 intensive and costly. 18 I mean, would that integrate -- would you be able to use your compressed air system with the 19 previous discussion on the movable wall? Would that be 20 21 something that could go hand in hand? And if you were 22 having this movable wall, how easy would it be to extend those lines into that next built-in-place? 23 24 MR. LUSK: Yeah, that's a very good

Page 43 Actually, I work very closely with those question. 1 people, and that is actually the plan for this. We would like to provide a complete 3 solution for some mines to use our movable wall, the compressed breathable air system, and be able to move 5 6 that up at the face as necessary. So basically what you would have is a 8 system where the pipe comes into the built-in-place refuge alternative, you have it manifolded so that you 9 can introduce the flow into that area and provide 10 breathable air. 11 When it's time to move that forward, 12 because it's beyond a thousand feet, you can take the 13 wall down, advance the pipe forward, build that built-14 in-place refuge alternative again. That's the plan for 15 a complete solution. 16 17 MS. MCCONNELL: Okay. 18 MR. LUSK: Thank you. MS. MCCONNELL: Thank you. 19 Okay. Mr. Lusk was our last signed-up 20

speaker, but that doesn't prevent anyone from coming

issues we highlighted in our opening statement and in

down and sharing some information with us on some of the

Mr. Main's remarks.

21

22

23

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Page 44
                   Is there anyone there who could speak to
 1
     us about two-way communication in terms of when a miner
     has a SCSR or any solutions to that versus an SCBA?
 3
                   Is there anyone that could speak to the
 4
 5
     use of built-in-place at their own mines or the refuge
     alternatives that are currently used in their mines?
 6
 7
     Recommendations for changes?
 8
                   It's only really through your input that
     we can learn from your experience.
 9
                   Come on down, Dennis.
10
                   MR. O'DELL: Good afternoon.
11
                                                  My name is
     Dennis O'Dell, D-E-N-N-I-S, O'Dell, O, apostrophe,
12
     capital D-E-L-L. I am currently the administrator of
13
     Occupational Health and Safety for the United Mine
14
     Workers.
15
                   As I said this morning, I have 40 years
16
17
     experience in the mining industry, 20 as an underground
     coal miner, ten as a field representative for Mine
18
     Workers, and ten years in currently the administrator
19
     of Occupational Health and Safety.
20
                   So I really wasn't prepared to say
21
     anything this afternoon, and I promise you I won't be
22
     as long this afternoon as I was this morning, but when
23
     you opened this up, you said we were just going to have
24
```

- 1 kind of a general discussion about everything, and not
- 2 necessarily on a technical end, but let's just talk
- 3 about some general things that coal miners can identify
- 4 with.
- 5 So one of the things that the Mine
- 6 Workers believe at this time is that, No. 1, shelters
- 7 as we have today, the chambers, we should still leave
- 8 one on the section. We can't go back to the days of
- 9 brattice cloth and post. We have to deal with the
- 10 facts as what we know.
- 11 Nobody can speculate or guess what
- 12 happened at Sago. We have to deal with the facts as we
- 13 know them.
- 14 Miners throughout the world are taught
- 15 escape first, then if you can't escape, barricade, and
- 16 so since MSHA's taught that, since I've known that for
- 17 40 years, it would be my guess that those miners were
- 18 taught the same thing at Sago.
- 19 Whatever reason, they felt they couldn't
- 20 escape, so they had to turn around and barricade.
- 21 That's the facts. That's what we have to deal with.
- 22 Had there been shelters or chambers in place as we have
- 23 today, we know now that those miners would be alive,
- 24 without question.

```
Page 46
                   And why do we know that?
 1
                                             We know that
     because the units have been tested, there were a less
     number of miners that would've been in that facility as
 3
     what we have them ready for today.
                   The other thing we know is that the
 5
     explosion force was nothing like it was at Upper Big
 6
 7
     Branch, and when we tested units at Upper Big Branch,
 8
     and with that massive force of explosion there, those
     shelters/chambers were fine.
 9
                   People -- we know now that people
10
     would've survived had they have been barricaded in
11
             That's the facts. So we have to deal with the
     those.
12
     facts and the facts only. With saying that, I believe
13
     that we can also do better than what we're doing today.
14
15
                   As just a general discussion, it's my
     personal belief - if I may - that if I'm still working
16
17
     in the mines today, I'm gonna do everything in my power
18
     to escape, but knowing that I have a shelter or a
     chamber on the section gives me some satisfaction in
19
     knowing if I can't escape, I have an alternative.
20
                   So I believe those should be left where
21
22
     they are today, regardless of where we go moving
     forward.
               The other thing I believe is, can we go to
2.3
     hardened rooms or hardened shelters? I believe the
2.4
```

Page 47 answer to that is yes as well, because I think it 1 serves a great purpose. It doesn't really serve a purpose for 3 Let's say -- let's take a situation, again, at UBB. 5 6 Had those miners have had the hardened 7 rooms in place or the hardened shelters, they would've 8 been able to go to that, regroup, change out the selfrescuers that they had, communicate with each other, 9 and see what their next plan is. 10 11 So it's a place where miners can go and gather themselves, figure out what the next move is, 12 communications are provided, they can communicate with 13 the surface and find out what's ahead of them. 14 15 If air is provided, they can change out their SCSRs or replenish their units without being in 16 17 contaminated air. So I believe that's an important 18 step forward. The other purpose, I think, that it would 19 serve would be for miner rescue teams. In the event 20 21 somebody were stuck on a section in a chamber, the mine 22 rescue teams could utilize those hardened rooms or 23 shelters or whatever you want to call them as preset

fresh air bases.

Page 48 They can use those to go in, they can 1 replenish their units to where they could expand further on their search, they could communicate better 3 with the outside. If their communications aren't working --5 and we know we're doing a lot better, Joe, with the 6 7 communication systems that you have now today, but it's 8 always good to have a backup plan, right? I mean, the best plans don't always work out, so it's always good 9 to have Plan B. 10 11 So I think there's a lot that we can do, as far as utilizing built-in-place refuge chambers as 12 well, for escape and for miner rescue. 13 Where applicable, I think that those 14 places could be provided with a borehole from the 15 surface to provide fresh air and communications, and we 16 17 know that there are some mines that can do that without 18 any problems, accessible. 19 There's also mines where that's a challenge, in the mountains or whether it be a problem 20 with a landowner who doesn't necessarily want you to 21 come on his property or you can't access it or it may 22 2.3 take too long to access it, too. 24 Then we ought to consider the use of

Page 49 compressed air lines. There's a lot of mines today 1 that utilize compressed air lines. It's part of their everyday business. They're there. 3 So if they can't utilize a borehole from 5 the surface, then utilize the compressed air lines that they already have in the mine, but just be smarter 6 7 about the placement of it. 8 That's all it's -- I -- my manager told me one time, "The key to success is the six Ps: 9 Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance." 10 11 And I think if smart mine managers would utilize that in the event of using compressed air 12 lines, because I've heard that they can pretty well 13 withstand a 15 PSI; it's just the flying objects that 14 you have to protect them from, that they're not in the 15 line of debris that may damage the lines. 16 17 So let's get smart about either burying 18 them or putting them closer to the roof or whatever, but look at the different ways that those lines can be 19 protected for use. Communications. It's always been a 20 problem underground, communicating. 21 22 Anybody that's worked in a coal mine 2.3 knows if I'm on one side of a piece of equipment, if somebody's on the other side, they're screaming, 24

Page 50 they're yelling, you have earmuffs on, the machine's 1 running, you can barely hear each other. I mean, it's a difficult -- under normal 3 circumstances, it's a difficult situation to where you can communicate with each other. 5 I think that there is room for full-face 6 7 apparatus like they use in mine rescue, but I think it 8 can be less complicated than those units that mine rescue people or firefighters use. 9 Anybody that lives in the area where 10 11 I live and has to deal with Congress, they got this neat, little thing under their seats, it's a pullover 12 hood. 13 Any member of Congress or Senate, under 14 the seats that they sit on in the chambers, has this 15 little -- you pull it out, and it's got a hood that you 16 17 put over your head in the event they have to evacuate, 18 and they have fresh air. I mean, have you seen this? It's there. 19 So if these Senators and Congressmen can 20 use that and have access to that, why can't we as coal 21 22 miners? MS. MCCONNELL: 2.3 How long is --2.4 MR. O'DELL: Because --

```
Page 51
                                   How long is the oxygen
 1
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
     supply for that?
 2
                   MR. O'DELL: I'm not -- that's a good
 3
     question for you to find out. I'm not sure, but it
     alleviates another problem for coal miners. A lot of
 5
     coal miners have facial hair, and so we don't go to work
 6
 7
     every day planning on fighting a fire or having to
 8
     evacuate under self-contained self-rescuers.
                   We go to work to mine coal.
 9
                                                 That's our
     job on a day-to-day basis. But we have to be prepared
10
     in the event of an emergency, unlike a firefighter or a
11
     mine rescue team member who has to be clean-shaven
12
     because that's what they do.
13
                   Coal miners, I think it's a bit too much
14
     to ask coal miners to be clean-shaven every day,
15
    because it's not a daily part of their routine to fight
16
17
     a fire or to escape.
                   So this hood-type thing helps alleviate
18
     the problem of fit test, and I think there's been some
19
     pretty good success on most of the testing on those,
20
     and I think the communications can be implemented in
21
22
     those units to where miners can talk back and forth
23
     with each other and understand what the -- what's being
24
     said.
```

Page 52 That's pretty much what I just wanted to 1 throw out there, as far as just some common sense things to think about. 3 I appreciate the time that you've given 4 5 me to speak on those things, and I appreciate the work that everybody's done, not just you guys but everybody 6 in the industry, as far as those that are being 7 8 proactive to move us in a better place than where we 9 are today. MS. MCCONNELL: 10 Thank you. 11 Mr. Main? Yeah, just a couple things. MR. MAIN: 12 In terms of -- if you look at the super-longwall or 13 super gate roads we have in some of these mines, that 14 distance between that face and the outby, it can be a 15 life-challenging experience, and I think the -- you 16 17 know, if you look at it from a practical standpoint, 18 looking at it for the current refuge alternatives, from the face outby, there is going to -- probably would be 19 a bit costly, as the saying goes, and I'm trying to 20 figure out some remedies for -- particularly for 21 22 situations like that, as you described, in the hardened room areas, which would you see those to being the same 23 15 PSI standard to be protected from the explosive --24

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Page 53
                                The hardened rooms?
                   MR. O'DELL:
 1
                              In the hardened rooms, yes.
                   MR. MAIN:
                   MR. O'DELL:
                                Yeah, I heard some
 3
     conversation out in the lunchroom before we came in
 5
     here today, and some of the hardened rooms, they talk
     about can withstand that type of pressure, but the
 6
 7
     other thing that some of the folks have done is pretty
 8
     ingenious.
                   When they built these -- and you guys
 9
     have probably seen them, and I haven't had the
10
     privilege of seeing them, but they actually build them
11
     so the access to them is not in line with where the
12
     explosion would travel.
13
                   So I think if you -- if you're a little
14
     bit smart on how you build these and you build them
15
     with a little offset to where they're not in line with
16
     where the explosion pattern would go, I think that
17
18
     increases the chance that it's gonna more than meet
     that standard, that PSI standard, to where it may take
19
     some damage, because you're putting it in a place where
20
     it's even more protected, just because of the natural
21
22
     settings and the way you build the unit on it.
2.3
                   I think the other thing that I failed to
     mention is, we have to look at it as far as distance-
24
```

Page 54 wise between place to place for the miners to travel. 1 If we wear the self-contained selfrescuers that we use today, which are supposed to be 60 3 minutes, there's already been a formula established to what the distance is between caches. 5 I think we have to apply that same 6 7 rationale if we go to hardened rooms, as far as those 8 distances for changing out or replenishing the units that we would be using. 9 I think the other thing that could be 10 done on that is a mine-by-mine approval-type approach 11 on -- based on the fact that all mines have different 12 conditions, different heights, different, you know, air 13 and those kind of things. So I hope -- I don't know if 14 I answered it, but I think I did. 15 MR. MAIN: Okay, that was helpful. 16 17 just -- and I think the -- you know, looking at it, if 18 we look at where is most at risk, the gap to the next location, it would be more on those long gate roads 19 than it would be a short section or the --21 MR. O'DELL: That's a definite challenge, 22 but I think the areas where you put your self-rescuers has to be located strategically to at least you know 23 that you can get to a hardened room or a shelter if 24

```
Page 55
     need be.
 1
                   Because I don't know that you'd, on a
     longwall face, you could put a -- obviously you can't,
 3
     you know, put a shelter or a hardened room, but you can
 5
     locate the self-rescuers strategically to where if you
     need to get from that place to where you can get to --
 6
 7
                   MR. MAIN: Planning your escape route
 8
     out.
 9
                   MR. O'DELL:
                                Right.
10
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Wes, do you have
     anything?
11
12
                   Thank you, Dennis.
13
                   MR. O'DELL:
                                Thank you.
14
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Anyone else that could
     speak to the topics of this session?
15
16
                   Thank you, sir. State your name and
17
     spell it.
18
                   MR. MOORE:
                              Once again, I didn't come
     here to make a presentation, but I -- since you
19
     described the thing the way you did, that it's more of
20
     an open forum --
21
22
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   Yes, it is.
23
                   MR. MOORE:
                              -- I will address the group
             Once again, it's Todd Moore, T-O-D-D,
24
     again.
```

- 1 M-O-O-R-E, and I'm with Consol Energy.
- The first thing that, you know, we've
- 3 been talking about, putting these compressed air lines
- 4 in, okay? That all sounds well and good, but there's
- 5 lots of things that go along with compressed air lines
- 6 that the group needs to think about.
- 7 One is, you know, that some of the
- 8 bottoms in these coal mines are tremendously hard,
- 9 okay? The coal seam is one thing to mine; the bottom
- 10 is another thing to mine.
- 11 The second thing is that a lot of the
- 12 mines that we've owned and operated have bottom hooving
- of two to three feet, okay? So if you bury it and then
- 14 the bottom hooves, what's gonna happen to your line?
- 15 It's gonna separate, it's gonna -- there's lots of
- 16 different things that happen there.
- 17 Any compressed air I've ever dealt with,
- 18 you have to have drops, you have to have places that
- 19 you can bleed off the -- the water and the
- 20 condensation, those kind of things. Any of those
- 21 places are gonna be vulnerable places, you know, for a
- 22 fire, for an explosion to disrupt the system.
- 23 And trust me, if I knew where my next
- 24 fire or explosion was gonna be, I wouldn't have my next

- 1 fire or explosion. So you can't always engineer for
- 2 that. You can't always think where that's gonna be.
- 3 You can't always work your way around that. That's why
- 4 I don't think compressed air lines are feasible.
- 5 The line from the surface, if you can put
- 6 a borehole down, you know, that's all well and good,
- 7 and that would be a Cadillac outby shelter, but those
- 8 locations are limited as well, you know, due to
- 9 landowner difficulties, due to the terrain, due to
- 10 those kind of things. It's not always possible.
- I think if you go to RAs, there has to be
- 12 multiple, different ways that the people can provide
- 13 the air, one maybe being boreholes, they can, but maybe
- 14 it's cached air.
- Maybe it's air that's in a, you know, in
- 16 compressed caches that you would move and you would
- 17 have behind the RA wall that you have so that you could
- 18 move it from place to place. But I think that's the
- 19 only way that's feasible.
- You talk about the face pieces, and I
- 21 want to talk about what Dennis talked about there.
- 22 What he says about the Senate and the Congress, I have
- 23 one of those units. I think it's a five-minute unit.
- 24 It's in a bag.

```
Page 58
                   I think I've showed it to you, Joe.
 1
     in a bag, it's green. You tear it apart, put a hood
     down over your head, there's a little canister that
 3
     goes right along your neck.
 5
                   Like I said, I think it's only a five-
     minute unit, but it does help with a lot of the
 6
 7
     problems that we keep talking about, with this face-fit
     test, okay?
 8
                   I can't be worrying about what size
 9
     people I have on my section every day. You know, I got
10
     four with big heads like mine, and I got two with
11
     little heads like yours today. Before, I got four
12
     little heads like yours and two big heads like mine.
13
     So that doesn't work.
14
15
                   So you have to have one size fits all.
     This hood that comes around your head and cinches in,
16
17
     okay, that allows communication, it keeps the smoke out
18
     of your eyes. There's lots of good things that come
     along with that.
19
                   MS. MCCONNELL: But the option is only
20
     five minutes. So how --
21
22
                   MR. MOORE:
                              That's -- true.
23
     nothing to do with the hood; that just has --
24
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Right.
```

```
Page 59
                               -- to do with the oxygen
                   MR. MOORE:
 1
     supply.
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   So is there any product
 3
     out there that provides you more than five minutes or
     up to 30 minutes or --
 5
                               In my opinion -- you can ask
 6
                   MR. MOORE:
 7
     the professionals here in the room that know better
 8
     than I, but I believe that that hood could be utilized
     with some other type of supply device.
 9
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Okay.
10
                   MR. MOORE: Okay? Currently, it's only,
11
     I think it's five, it might be ten minutes, but it's
12
     just a small unit. But I think that's something that
13
     certainly needs to be looked at.
14
                   And the final thing I want to say is, no
15
     matter what you guys decide on RAs, outby, inby,
16
     whatever, without Through-the-Earth communications,
17
18
     we're still just spinning our wheels here.
                   We're ten years after Sago, okay?
19
     poor guys beat on the roof down there 'til they
20
     couldn't stand it any longer, okay? And we never heard
21
22
            We didn't know that they were, okay?
                                                   That was
     our -- I still wear my helmet, a sticker that tells me
23
     to beat on the roof, and people come and save me.
24
```

```
Page 60
                   That's what's in my helmet right today.
 1
     Ten years later, we're not much closer than we were ten
     years ago, although technology does exist, and I think
 3
     without Through-the-Earth communications, I think we're
 5
     not doing the miners the justice that they deserve
     being able to get in these shelters.
 6
 7
                   That's all I have.
 8
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Thank you very much.
                                                          Oh,
     hold on.
 9
                   Mr. Main?
10
                   MR. MAIN: Yeah, Todd, and there was -- I
11
     think there is -- one of the manufacturers that worked
12
     with your folks, which is --
13
                   MR. MOORE: Lockheed?
14
15
                              -- Lockheed, and I think
                   MR. MAIN:
     they're in China now.
16
17
                   MR. MOORE:
                               I think so.
                   MR. MAIN: And there's another firm out
18
     of Canada that I just saw, we have an approval at -- do
19
     you know which one that is, Wes?
20
21
                   MR. SHUMAKER:
                                  The Rescue Dog.
22
                   MR. MAIN:
                              The -- through the
2.3
     communications and stuff.
24
                   MR. SHUMAKER: Yeah, I believe they're
```

Page 61 called the Rescue Dog at E-Spectrum. 1 I didn't know -- I know they MR. MAIN: had been working with that technology. I just saw this 3 actually recently. I was --5 I believe there are four or MR. MOORE: five different companies right now that say that they 6 7 have Through-the-Earth communications. I've not tested 8 all of them, but I do know that it does exist. not pie-in-the-sky stuff. 9 MR. MAIN: Yeah, I would agree to that. 10 That's something on the list that we need to figure out 11 how to move forward. 12 13 MS. MCCONNELL: Thank you, sir. 14 MR. MOORE: Thank you. 15 MS. MCCONNELL: Is there anyone else who would like to come down and share some information? 16 17 MR. HARRIS: I guess since my other two 18 buddies got up and gabbed, I need to, too. Hi, I'm Randall Harris, R-A-N-D-A-L-L, 19 H-A-R-R-I-S. I'm a tech support for the State of West 20 Virginia, Mine Safety Office. 21 22 I also said I wasn't going to talk, because I've said everything I'm gonna say many times, 2.3

but, you know, it's interesting that you guys date

- 1 yourself as working on this for six years. As Todd
- 2 pointed out, we've been working on this for ten years,
- 3 and Todd was here.
- 4 Dennis wasn't in the room, but Dennis'
- 5 people were. We spent a lot of time trying to figure
- 6 out what solutions were after Sago, and in many ways,
- 7 we're responsible for the craziness that's here now,
- 8 'cause then Congress picked it all up and voted in the
- 9 MINER Act.
- 10 One thing that Dennis started off with is
- 11 absolutely right. We did not set off to build
- 12 shelters.
- We set off to figure out how we get
- 14 people the heck out of the mines, and the whole concept
- of shelters came in because while we were doing this,
- in Canada, they had an accident in an underground
- 17 metal/nonmetal mine, and a diesel engine, as I recall,
- 18 caught on fire, and there was diesel smoke, and
- 19 everybody went into a shelter.
- 20 Well, the media picked it all up and
- 21 said, "Ah, shelters are it." We were in the middle of
- 22 our deliberations, and so our chief executive says,
- "Shelters are not a bad thing, let's talk about
- 24 shelters."

Page 63 But when I talked to the Canadians, their 1 biggest fear was if you put a shelter in there and it looks like a dining room, people are gonna go there 3 They're not gonna give out. And sooner or 5 later, they're gonna go in that room, and then we're not gonna be able to get them out. 6 7 So their recommendation to us - which I 8 heard also from the folks in Poland and the folks in Australia - was build something that works, but make it 9 so goddamn ugly that nobody will get into it unless 10 they absolutely have to and provide them everything 11 they need to get out, so that if -- the option to get 12 out is more attractive than the option to get in. 13 And that's basically how we got to where 14 The concept of outby places to stop and we are today. 15 change rescuers and all that stuff was all debated. 16 17 The underground, whether you put air --18 compressed air in, we debated all of that, too, and a lot of the reasons Todd talked about have not been 19 20 overcome. The mines that have compressed air 21 systems now or any industry that has compressed air 22 systems has trouble maintaining pressure over 23 maintenance periods, and even in factories that don't 24

Page 64 And as Todd pointed out, our mines move. 1 The tops move, bottoms move, ribs move. So it makes it even more complicated. 3 The communication systems we have underground now are 5 not perfect. The issue with Through-the-Earth works 6 7 really well if you're on the Enterprise, but when you 8 get into the practical issues of moving an electromagnetic field through - in some cases -9 thousands of feet of rock, you've got a lot more 10 issues, and that's why the Lockheed Martin system is as 11 expensive and extravagant as it is, because it's not 12 13 easy. When you're trying to move a signal 14 through, it's not like communicating through the air. 15 The density of the air, the ability of the air to 16 17 conduct signal is fairly constant. 18 When you're going through strata, you've got different layers of rocks and different 19 compositions, you've got pools of water sitting in 20 there, so you get all of these lensing effects, and 21 22 it's just not easy. 23 So Through-the-Earth communications is something that is worth exploring, but it's not 24

- 1 something that you're -- that's gonna have an everyday
- 2 solution. It's just very difficult.
- Joe, your question about talking, we
- 4 actually came across that while we were working through
- 5 our stuff, and I've worked on it on and off for the
- 6 last ten years. There are throat mics right now that
- 7 you can wear with the current brand of SCSRs we have
- 8 out there.
- 9 The problem is, that we basically have
- 10 two major communication systems that accept them, the
- 11 Motorola and the Kenwood. Motorola has them approved
- 12 actually, but it costs more than a radio, and it comes
- in a pouch about the size of an SCSR.
- 14 Kenwood no longer offers theirs, because
- 15 it was too difficult to get it approved and the market
- 16 was too small, so they don't offer a throat mic for
- 17 that, and the way our approval is, you can't plug
- 18 somebody else's throat mic into a Kenwood radio, even
- 19 though there might be a plug for it.
- I found a company in Illinois that makes
- 21 them for the military. They use them in tanks and in
- 22 helicopters, throat mics. They were willing to do it.
- 23 The problem is, we ran into even if I got them to do
- 24 it, they could make one small enough to fit in a pouch

Page 66 next to your SCSR and it would plug into your unit. 1 We couldn't get it approved, because they were gonna make a throat mic that would be universal to 3 There's no mechanism, meaning electrical everybody. 5 approval codes, to be able to do that, which kind of gets back in another issue that was brought up a couple 6 7 of times, is the reality of 2018. 8 The reason we made 2016 was we happened to find a flaw that we had to fix, and we told 9 everybody, "You've gotta fix the flaw." We fixed the 10 flaw in time to make 2016. That was our first set of 11 deadlines, right? Was it 2016? 12 13 MR. SHUMAKER: 2013. 2013. MR. HARRIS: 2013. If we hadn't found 14 that flaw, we would've had this crisis in 2013. 15 Because there was an imminent danger, we got everybody 16 to fix everything in time, and everybody got their 17 18 approvals in place, and we made the 2013 date. 19 There is nothing driving people to get everything done in time to make 2018. I don't know how 20 21 that's gonna happen. There's -- unless a crisis comes 22 up or we get some real creative or motivated 23 manufacturers to go out there and go do their thing in 24 time.

```
Page 67
                   I haven't kept up with Wes in the last
 1
     several months, so I'm not sure where we are in this
     process, but it's probably not much improved.
 3
     problem you've got is, there's a lot of manufacturers
 5
     sitting out here, too.
                   That's the guys that are gonna have to
 6
 7
     figure out how to make the things in time, for the
 8
     other guys out here mining coal to pay for them and get
     them installed by the end of 2018. You can't just go
 9
     out and start building something and be able to ship
10
     it.
11
                   The logistics of going through this cycle
12
     the last time - when we had to go back and repurpose
13
     some of these shelters - was enormous. The logistics
14
     was more complicated than -- by far than anything
15
     associated with the approval process or design process.
16
17
                   How do you move thousands of these
18
               And a lot of these things weigh eight, nine
     tons. How do you move thousands of these things around
19
     to be able to do what you got to do in the time you've
20
     gotta do? How do you get them manufactured?
21
22
                   To manufacture them, you've gotta just
     order the parts. To order the parts, you've gotta do
23
     the design. To do the design, you've gotta get the
24
```

Page 68 To get the approval, you've gotta do the approval. 1 testing. So you gotta work backwards from 2018, 3 and I personally believe that you've already missed the deadline for 2018. 5 Unless somebody, a manufacturer of the 6 7 portable shelters, unless one of them has their 8 structural approval in place now, I don't know how, with all those steps in place, they're gonna be able to 9 get everything moving, if they have to do any 10 modifications, to be able to hit 2018 and get them out 11 in the market that, quite honestly, is economically 12 stressed and -- especially for capital expenditures. 13 The other issue that's come up a couple 14 times from the other folks talking is this whole 15 concept that this is a very situational-specific 16 solution that you need, and you're driving towards some 17 18 universal standard. It ain't gonna work. I mean, we got thousands of different 19 Coal mines, you've got metal -- your 20 mines. metal/nonmetal mines that, eventually, you're gonna get 21 22 into -- some of them have already adopted things like this, but you've got thousands of these things out 23 there. Every one of them is different. 24

Page 69 As Todd says, some of them got floors 1 that are very, very hard. Some of them got floors that turn into mud. Some of them got floors that go up and 3 There's not gonna be a single solution. Braden and his folks are talking about 5 the -- their walls. The problem with the walls, 6 7 whether it's made out of their stuff, which is pretty 8 cool, or whether it's made out of blocks or steel or whatever is the same thing we were just talking about, 9 the walls go up and down over time. 10 11 The issue about where is the next explosion gonna come for, that was a real interesting 12 thing, Joe, because when we went through -- we actually 13 went through the process of, "Tell us what you're gonna 14 do and why you're gonna do it." 15 16 The problem we ran into was, from a regulatory point of view, if a mine operator points 17 18 out to you that there is a risk of an explosion at this point, what are you gonna do about that as a regulator, 19 'cause they've now pointed out a hazard or a risk, at least. 21 And now, we're in a position -- we know 22 where a risk is, and then something eventually happens 2.3 and we didn't do nothing about it, or where the 24

Page 70 solution we adopted wasn't adequate, I mean, we've got 1 a real -- there's a chicken and egg thing here that I'm not sure what the answer is. 3 The Australians went down this road a 4 couple decades ago, and that's how they ended up at 5 this whole concept of, "You tell us what you're gonna 6 7 do, and we'll tell you whether it's adequate, then 8 you're gonna have to follow it," rather than setting a standard. 9 They set some standards, but it's mostly 10 at the mine level. You gotta tell us your duty of 11 care, I think they call it. This is just a very 12 complicated issue, and I'll be quite honest, you guys 13 are way behind the curve on this. It's gonna be tough. 14 15 This built-in-place shelter thing, I know me and the NIOSH guys, we've had long debates about 16 I agree that there's a place in this that 17 18 several other folks have said we need a whole bucket full of solutions. We don't need a solution. 19 not a solution. 20 The hoods that Todd's talking about, 21 besides that little one, which originally, I think, 22 23 only has a carbon monoxide filter in it, but besides 24 that, there are hoods like that. I've used them.

Page 71 I used to be in the nuclear weapons 1 I was on the NES team, which is our inversion of nuclear -- or the mine and rescue teams, nuclear 3 emergency support team. If the nuclear weapons went 5 off or something happened, we were the guys that bundled up our stuff and went out. 6 7 There are hoods like that. We have them, 8 I mean, DOE has them, the military has them. And most of them got like -- it's got an airpack on them, but 9 you can put air in there from anything. 10 The irony is, I was telling Ed earlier, 11 we were going -- we were all talking about, we all got 12 old mining stuff sitting around, we all collect junk, 13 we all do. I can -- look at you smile. 14 I found in one of my stashes a MSA self-15 rescuer that was built in 1950 that had exchangeable --16 17 there's a solid state one that had -- it's changeable 18 cartridges, so it had a whole cartridge with the OxyChem in it and CO2 absorber, and it came with a 19 hood, it came with a regulator, and it came with three 20 packs that you could plug into it. 21 22 We have spent -- since Sago, we have 23 probably spent 7 or 8 million dollars on R&D that we've developed something that was developed in the '50s, and 24

```
Page 72
     they couldn't sell enough of them, and MSA guit making
 1
     them.
                   You know, there are solutions out here.
 3
     They're -- they're gonna be difficult to find, and as
 5
     the gentleman from --
 6
                   Parris? I don't know who you're with.
 7
                   But as Mr. Parris was saying, it's gonna
 8
     take everybody working together, especially now that
     we're up against this time crunch.
 9
                   And I know from your point of view, Joe,
10
     sooner or later, you're gonna go off to the next -- the
11
     next thing you're gonna do, and we're running out of
12
     time on this, this momentum. If we're gonna get
13
     something done before you go off to your next job,
14
     we're gonna have to get it done now.
15
                   I have no idea what's gonna happen next;
16
17
     I just have been through too many administration
18
     changes as a federal employee to know that things --
     that -- to know that things will change one way or
19
     another, and the things that -- the momentum and stuff
20
     that has happened over the last period of time, since
21
22
     you've been here, Joe, is going to be interrupted, if
     nothing else, by just a change of all of the managers.
23
                   'Cause people are gonna be shuffled
24
```

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- 1 around, you're not gonna have the same momentum, you're
- 2 gonna lose a year, 18 months, figuring out exactly what
- 3 the heck the next person's gonna do before you even
- 4 start doing anything.
- 5 And you and I had a conversation, you've
- 6 been here for almost six years, and you still haven't
- 7 figured out how to make things work yet.
- MR. MAIN: Still haven't.
- 9 MR. RANDALL: Yeah, you still haven't,
- 10 you know, but, I mean, I've been through it at the
- 11 Department of Energy. I can't imagine the Department
- 12 of Labor is any different.
- So that's my two cents' worth. I've said
- 14 all of this before at multiple meetings, and I told Ed
- 15 that I probably wouldn't even say it again, but,
- 16 fortunately, the court reporter has got it all written
- 17 down this time.
- MR. MAIN: A lot of things to think
- 19 about, and, you know, that's what this is -- I think
- 20 Dennis talked about it, it's sort of an open
- 21 conversation, kind of a public meeting we wanted to
- 22 have, because we do have to come to terms with all of
- 23 this.
- 24 And I think we've been with the -- the

Page 74

- 1 current model about six years now, and we have -- with
- 2 the experience we had, we've had a few that did, as you
- 3 noted, bring all of this equipment out and find out how
- 4 to do it the painful way, but I think, you know, just
- 5 sort of, like, putting everything in perspective.
- 6 We do have a short period of time, if not
- 7 driven by a December 2018 certification regulation, we
- 8 probably think we're a little bit more ahead of the
- 9 curve than what you may, but time's gonna tell on that
- 10 one.
- 11 We plan to have, as short as we can, the
- 12 guidance out for what 2018 certifications mean, but,
- 13 you know, it's -- I think we just need to take a quick
- 14 step back and look at the overall mine emergency
- 15 response system structures we're putting in place and
- 16 use this short period of time as an opportunity to try
- 17 to plot where we go from here.
- 18 And that's the purpose of this exercise,
- 19 because we do have a communications issue, we do have
- 20 some of these long gate roads that have a great
- 21 distance from where you leave that refuge alternative
- 22 to the next area, which we have to go through, things
- 23 like that, that, you know, we really need to have input
- 24 on and information back.

Page 75 I contend that you're never 1 MR. RANDALL: gonna get enough input to make those decisions, and that, you know, you're gonna have to find a solution 3 that is flexible enough to allow people to do what they 5 need to do with whatever the latest technology is, and an approval process that is flexible enough to allow 6 7 the technologies to bear in the appropriate locations. 8 The whole issue is how do you encourage -- how do you encourage innovation, technological 9 innovation in any field, whether it's new coal-mining 10 methods or safety methods, when you have rigid approval 11 processes that are difficult to modify, and it's not 12 just an issue for MSHA; it's an issue for any regulator 13 at any level in the system. 14 15 How do you -- how do you, on one hand, encourage innovation, at the same time maintain some 16 17 minimal standards and remain, you know, credible as a 18 regulator? I guess the only point I'd MR. TUROW: 19 like to make is that I think that's a good -- a good 20 statement. I just do want everyone to recognize that 21 22 the existing standards, I'm talking about 30 CFR 7.510 does allow for the approval of new technology. 2.3 So there is that flexibility that is at 24

Page 76 least built into the regulatory structure that would 1 allow new technology to be approved if it provides the same level of protection, and I just -- not commenting 3 one way or another, but just want more people to be 5 aware of that option. 6 MR. RANDALL: Steve, as a ten-year 7 observer of the process, that flexibility is very 8 difficult to actually execute, and I don't -- you know, having been on both sides now, you know, I'd spent the 9 first 20 years of my life sitting in federal agencies 10 regulating folks like you did, and now I've been on 11 this side, and it's not easy. 12 I mean, there's no easy way to do this, 13 but I just know that unless you get about -- a process 14 in place to -- or something to drive to whatever 15 deadline you're gonna get, you're gonna have difficulty 16 17 getting there, because you will become -- overcome by 18 events that we have not even anticipated yet. I mean, I love your six Ps things. 19 That's absolutely right. 20 All right. 21 22 MS. MCCONNELL: Thank you. MR. SHUMAKER: 2.3 Thank you. 24 MR. MAIN: Thank you.

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Page 77
                   MR. RANDALL:
                                Thank you.
 1
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   Thank you.
                   Anyone else like to come down and share a
 3
     few thoughts? We're learning a lot from your
 5
     testimony. I know I am. So if you have some ideas or
     suggestions, please come down.
 6
 7
                   MR. MAIN: How long is the record open on
     this one?
 8
               October --
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Another month from now.
 9
10
                   MR. MAIN:
                              Okay.
                   MS. MCCONNELL: November 16th.
11
                   MR. MAIN: So this is an extension of
12
     four extensions of the record --
13
14
                   MS. MCCONNELL:
                                   Right.
15
                   MR. MAIN: -- and an extension of the
     comment period.
                      So, you know, any ideas, good thoughts
16
17
     that you have, we'd like to sort of get them out,
18
     because we do need to move forward doing something, and
     the input would be very helpful, and guidance.
19
                   MS. MCCONNELL: Okay. If there is --
20
     this is the last call. If no one else wishes to make a
21
22
     presentation, I will conclude this meeting, and I want
     to thank everyone who has made a presentation, as those
23
     who did not present, for your attendance here today,
24
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Page 78
     and your interest in this rulemaking.
                    I want to emphasize that all comments
     must be received by November 16th, and we will take
 3
     your comments and concerns into consideration as the
 5
     agency determines what, if any, action is needed.
                    Thank you so much, and have a good
 6
 7
     evening.
                    (The meeting concluded.)
 8
 9
10
                            ---000---
11
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21
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23
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Page 79
     STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
 1
     COUNTY OF RALEIGH, to wit:
 3
                    I, Bret M. Matics, C.C.R., do hereby
 4
     certify that the foregoing proceedings were duly taken
 5
     by means of voice writing and transcribed by me to the
 6
     best of my skill and ability by means of computer-aided
 7
     transcription and that all information contained
 8
     therein will be held absolutely confidential.
 9
                   Given under my hand this 26th day of
10
     October, 2015.
11
12
13
                       BRET M. MATICS
14
15
16
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19
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21
22
23
24
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