PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 7/5/22 9:04 AM
Received: March 30, 2022
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. l1d-zzid-p7vh
Comments Due: July 09, 2022
Submission Type: Web

Docket: MSHA-2018-0014
Dust Retrospective Study

Comment On: MSHA-2018-0014-0007
Retrospective Study of Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule

Document: MSHA-2018-0014-DRAFT-0022
Comment from Monteith, Scotty

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General Comment

Scotty M. Comment

Attachments

Policy Comment

Comment Regarding “Retrospective Study of Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule” Docket (MSHA-2018-0014)

Coal Dust Particles (CDP) are extremely dangerous to one’s health. This study will improve the lives of coal miners and their families. A study conducted on mice over nine months showed noticeable health problems such as coal being found in lung tissue and clogging their “alveolar area”. (Mu, M., et al) Seeing this damage after only a nine-month exposure period is alarming. Considering coal miners spend most of their days in the mine the effects on humans can be similar to those of the mice. The study also showed that at the end of the nine months the mice also experienced a reduction in lung capacity and more resistance when breathing (Mu, M. et al). This goes to show that working in coal mines is dangerous because coal dust has a significant impact on one’s lungs and respiratory system as a whole.

This is why there needs to be more studying and standards put in place for how long miners can spend in mines and require better breathing equipment to be used. I do believe this study can be improved. After reading another comment from The Center for Science in the Public Interest, I believe there needs to be more effort put in to prevent Silica exposure as well. Silicosis as stated in their comment is a dangerous disease that affects thousands of miners. We would be doing a disservice to the miners if we don’t look at CDP and Silica dust. Furthermore, I believe there should also be more research into the exposure non-miners face due to living near mines. Even being near a mine can lead to individuals having lung problems.

Citations

Mu, M., Li, B., Zou, Y. et al. Coal dust exposure triggers heterogeneity of transcriptional profiles in mouse pneumoconiosis and Vitamin D remedies. Part Fibre Toxicol 19, 7 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12989-022-00449-y