
From: bbish@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of William Bishop
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Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 8:56 AM
To: zzMSHA-Standards - Comments to Fed Reg Group
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue

Dear David Zatezalo,

I have lived in Eastern Kentucky and have known many people with black lung. The reports coming out of the Eastern coalfields of steady INCREASES in lung disease is a national tragedy. The country has known for a half century of the dangers dust in underground coal mining. For a time, it seemed the country was eager to save fellow citizens from this deathly ailment. Now, miners are dying without concern from those who could do something about it. It's a crime in the making.

I urge MSHA to create a stricter, separately enforceable silica dust standard. In order to protect miners, a silica standard that is separately enforceable from respirable coal dust must be promulgated. At minimum, that standard should be reduced from 100 µg/m³ to 50µg/m³. Second, MSHA should improve enforcement of engineering, administrative, and environmental controls which includes better practices for validating whether or not samples are representative of daily dust conditions. Last, MSHA should not place the burden of self-protection on miners and their access to respirators. The air of the environment in which the miners work should be made safe as it is often difficult or even impossible to wear respiratory equipment in the mines.

Sincerely,
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