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Docket: MSHA-2016-0013
Respirable Crystalline Silica/Quartz

Comment On: MSHA-2016-0013-0043
Respirable Silica (Quartz); Correction

Document: MSHA-2016-0013-0071
Comment from Amanda Padden,

Submitter Information

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General Comment

This past summer, I interned at the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center. There, I learned a great deal about black lung disease, coal mining, and the effects of silica dust. It is absolutely clear that there must be a stricter, specific, and separately enforceable silica dust standard. While previously regulations have assisted in reducing the rate of black lung disease due to coal dust, it is imperative that MSHA address the dramatic and deadly effects of respirable silica in order to protect the lives of miners across the country. The current standards are not effective for silica dust. Furthermore, these standards must ensure that it is not the burden of the miner to protect themselves from silica dust. A person's ability to access respirators should not impact their ability to avoid contracting black lung disease. It is unjust and absolutely unacceptable that the government is allowing the current rates of black lung disease. The prevalence of this chronic and deadly disease would not be allowable in any other workplace. I implore you to value and protect the lives of the miners that work to power our lives by implementing separate and stricter standards for silica dust.

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