

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> 8/14/23, 4:14 PM <b>Received:</b> August 11, 2023 <b>Status:</b> Posted <b>Posted:</b> August 14, 2023 <b>Tracking No.</b> 117-dm1i-ycak <b>Comments Due:</b> September 11, 2023 <b>Submission Type:</b> Web
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**Docket:** MSHA-2023-0001

Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection

**Comment On:** MSHA-2023-0001-0002

Lowering Miners' Exposure: Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection

**Document:** MSHA-2023-0001-1361

Comment from Wilkes Mine Safety Consulting

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## General Comment

As a former MSHA Health and Safety Inspector/ Special Investigator I feel I have firsthand experience and knowledge of MSHA's innerworkings. The proposed rule is certainly needed, all miners deserve protection of this disabling disease. The proposed rule will not be helpful unless inspectors are there to ensure compliance with the law. Mine operators are inherently law breakers, the only way to make them honest is strong enforcement. MSHA must put more inspectors at the mine, strongly enforce, have higher penalties and require mine operators pay the fines in a timely manner or be subject to closure orders. Don't allow miners to work temporarily in dusty conditions while improvements are being made. Coal miners have been told for decades working in rock dust won't hurt, and many were gullible enough to work in the dust. Finally, I think Miners Representatives should be required at all mines and they should be involved with the dust sampling.