



International Diatomite Producers Association

September 11, 2023

Ms. Aromie Noe  
Director  
Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
201 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 4E401  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452

Re: RIN 1219–AB36; Docket No. MSHA–2023–0001, Lowering Miners’ Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection, Comments of the Essential Minerals Association

Filed via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Dear Ms. Noe:

The International Diatomite Producers Association represents four member companies that extract and process diatomaceous earth, a sedimentary rock composed of the fossilized skeletal remains of single-cell aquatic algae known as diatoms.

Diatomite is prized for its exceptional absorption properties, making it essential in agricultural applications, paints, plastics, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, filtration, and purification.

As the sole member of the Essential Minerals Association’s (EMA) Diatomite Section, we wholeheartedly endorse the comments EMA submitted to the *Federal Register* on MSHA’s Proposed Rule on Lowering Miners’ Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection, published at 88 FR 44852 et seq. (July 13, 2023).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Greissing", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Chris Greissing  
Executive Director  
International Diatomite Producers Association