

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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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-2023-0001-1333

Comment from Seppa, Midori

Submitter Information

Name: Midori Seppa

Email: midoriseppa@gmail.com

General Comment

I am writing to urge adoption of stricter standards and enforcement for silica and coal dust monitoring and mitigation. It is very important that coal mining companies not be allowed to endanger their workers by policing and regulating themselves- history shows this doesn't work (see increases in black lung diagnoses in recent years). The onus cannot be on workers to use intensive protective masks when they work in conditions where this would endanger their lives in other ways (limiting communication between workers as they try to prevent collapse of tunnels/walls, for example). Mining companies must do more to detect silica and coal dust in all phases of mining including exploration and to clean the air that their workers breathe. The government needs to hold them accountable for this.