

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> 8/8/23, 8:09 AM <b>Received:</b> August 07, 2023 <b>Status:</b> Posted <b>Posted:</b> August 08, 2023 <b>Tracking No.</b> II1-13f1-gk8z <b>Comments Due:</b> August 28, 2023 <b>Submission Type:</b> API
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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-2023-0001-1336

Comment from Powell, Rebecca

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## General Comment

I support strengthening regulations and protections around miners' exposure to silica dust. This is an entirely preventable health hazard, and it is unacceptable that mining companies would put profit ahead of the health and safety of their workers. Being more explicit in these regulations would help to further this protection. I would like the rule to require periodic silica testing during all phases of a mine's construction and operation. Companies should be required to ventilate mines and/or capture and eliminate dust, rather than just relying on PPE worn by miners as a long-term solution when levels are high. I also think inspections should be unannounced, to lessen the amount of disingenuous temporary fixes that may be put in place when it is known that an inspector is coming.