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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-2023-0001-1340 Comment from MORGAN, GEORGIA

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General Comment

I urge the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration to strengthen their proposed rule to specifically require periodic silica dust testing during all phases of a mine's construction and operation, and require mining companies to ventilate their mines or capture or eliminate dust.

I am glad they have drawn attention to the problem.

Black lung and silicosis are 100 percent-preventable diseases. They have come roaring back because safety standards have relied in part on coal companies to police themselves and these have not kept up with current working conditions in mines and don't sufficiently limit exposure to the biggest hazard of all: silica.

Please strengthen these rules before they become final this November. Coal workers aren't the only ones who will benefit: Metal, sand, stone and gravel miners are also at risk. All miners need protection.

Black lung is incurable but totally preventable. Please give us enforceable regulations that reflect the reality of today's mining operations, and end the unnecessary misery and premature death.