

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-2023-0001-1341

Comment from Jones , Connie M.

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General Comment

Black lung cases are surging again. Why has this 100 percent-preventable disease come roaring back? Because the government's safety standards — which rely in part on coal companies to police themselves — haven't kept up with the latest working conditions in mines and don't sufficiently limit exposure to the biggest hazard of all: silica.

You can make a difference. I'm asking you to strengthen the 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.

It's not just coal workers who stand to benefit: Metal, sand, stone and gravel miners are also at risk. All miners need protection.

Please! Do the right thing to protect American workers, rather than enriching already wealthy mine owners and corporations.

Thank you.