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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-2023-0001-1348

Comment from Sullivan, Mary-Helen

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General Comment

I have read that the incidence of black lung disease has increased. This is unwelcome news. The people who risk their lives extracting coal, which is still being used to generate electricity, should not also be at risk of a long-term and potentially fatal illness. The southwest region of my state has been a coal-mining area for many years. Please make changes to the regulations in order to protect miners as follows: require periodic silica dust testing during all phases of a mine's construction and operation; either require that mines be ventilated or that the mining companies capture or eliminate the silica dust.