

Received 11/24/04
MSHA/OSRV

From: James and Debbie [jdblank@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2004 1:44 AM
To: comments@msha.gov
Subject: RIN 1219AA98

November 23, 2004

To: Mr. Marvin W. Nichols, Jr.

RE: 30 CFR Part 75
Low and Medium Voltage Diesel Powered Electrical Generators Proposed Rules

Dear Mr. Nichols

On Tuesday, November 16, 2004, I spoke at the public hearing held at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham, AL. Below is a copy of my comments.

UMWA Local 2245 respectfully requests that MSHA withdraw the fore mentioned proposed rules for the following reasons:

(1) Diesel powered generators are fire hazards and will be placed in areas where smoke could overtake the miners.

(2) The generators will be left unattended and again placed in areas where smoke could overtake the miners or in areas such as in old works where they could cause a fire or explosion.

(3) There is a high risk of electrical shock to the miners because according to the prints in the proposed rules, the generator will be frame grounded. This means if there is a problem with the electrical system the frame could become energized and if a miner touches the frame the miner could be electrocuted.

In closing, it appears to me in the proposed rules that MSHA seems to be more concerned about cost savings for the operators instead of the safety for the miners. We have the opportunity to do the safe thing for the miners.

I ask you to consider my fore mentioned comments and respectfully request that MSHA withdraw the fore mentioned proposed rules, If you have any questions or need any more information, please feel free to contact me at phone (205)758-0276, address 13016 Raintree Circle, Duncanville, AL 35456 or email jdblank@charter.net. Thank you in advance for any consideration on this matter.

Respectfully

James A. Blankenship, Safety Committeeman
UMWA Local 2245, District 20

AA98-COMM-100