
From: OUTFWASH@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2006 1:44 PM
To: zzMSHA-Standards - Comments to Fed Reg Group
Subject: RIN-1219-AB44

I will preface the safety suggestion with what my father, an explosives expert miner at the turn of the century -1800-1900.

When working for Peabody minig in Elkhorn W Va he attempted to have just one safety measure to be nistalled in his and all other mines.

It was DRILL AIR SHAFTS FROM THE SURFACE TO THE MINE TUNNEL OR TUNNELS - DEPENDING ON HOW THE MINE WAS LAID OUT - EVERY 200 -300 YARDS. HE SAID THAT THEY COULD BE USED FOR COMMUNICATION AS WELL AS FRESH AIR.

AT PRESENT MY SONS ARE LIVING IN beCKLEY TRYING TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS NOW CLEANING THE COAL AFTER IT IS MINED. A REQUI9REMENT OF THE EPA aS P-ROCESSING COAL FOR ITS MANY USES THIS IS A NEW FIELD.

I wrote my son, Kris about this problem and sugested he contact you about the above. The leter isadded here. WASH

MY DEAR SON

060222

THIS MAY BE THE FIRST LETTER I HAVE EVER WRITTEN TO YOU; BUT, I HOPE THAT IS NOT THE LAST.

HAD A VERY LONG TALK WITH MIKE TODAY AND NOW KNOW WHY YOU STAY AT ARMS LENGTH FROM HIM WRT THE MINERS PROBLEM.

WE CANNOT GET A WORD IN EDGEWISE. HE HAS NO STOP SIGN SO I GOT ALL OF THE EARFUL I COULD STAND THEN ASKED HIM EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED TO ACCOMPLISH.

AND AGAIN HE WENT ABOUT EXPLAINING ABOUT COMMITTEES AND ISSUES. NOT REALLY STICKING TO THE SUBJECT - HIS PATIENTS AND WHAT CAUSED THEIR ILLNESSES. CONTINUALLY REFERRING TO THE COLLUSION OF THOSE ON COMMITTEES AND THE CORRUPTION INVOLVED.

I SUGGEST THAT HE ACCEPT THAT. RAISE THE QUESTION ABOUT THE SIMILARITIES OF THE DANGERS WORKING BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH MINING THE COAL AND THOSE OF THE MINERS CLEANING THE COAL AFTER IT WAS MINED. I FINALLY GOT THAT IN.

THE NEXT WAS IN THE LETTER I SENT YOU ABOUT THE AIR DUCTS SPACED 200 - 300 YARDS ALONG THE MINE SHAFT. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A REQUIRED SAFETY MEASURE TO ASSURE THAT THE MINERS WOULD HAVE FRESH AIR IN THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE MINE. --> AIR DUCTS DRILLED TO THE MINE TUNNEL FROM THE SURFACE EQUIPPED, IF NECESSARY, WITH A GASOLINE DRIVEN VENTILATION FAN TO DRIVE FRESH AIR INTO THE SHAFT.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN A SUGGESTION TO THE OWNERS BUT - TO MY KNOWLEDGE - NEVER ACTED UPON?

THE DANGERS INSIDE THE MINE ARE WELL KNOWN BUT THOSE DANGERS TO THE WORKERS WHO CLEAN THE MINED COAL ARE STILL BEING QUESTIONED.

EXCUSE! GLORIA WANTS ME TO JOIN HER IN DUPLICATE BRIDGE. WILL CONTINUE LATER.

CONTINUING.

MY FATHER, WHEN HE WAS A DYNAMITER IN THE PEABODY MINES BACK IN THE 20s, WANTED THOSE SHAFTS DRILLED WHEN HE WORKED ON THE COAL FACE. DRILLING AND SPACING THE HOLES THEN PACKING THEM WITH THE PROPER NUMBER OF STICKS WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN THE MINE. WHEN THE WHISTLE BLEW SHORT BLASTS THERE WAS TROUBLE. YOUR GRANDMOTHER SAID IT WAS ENOUGH - ESPECIALLY WHEN HIS MOUTH GOT HIM IN TROUBLE WITH THE CHURCH AND THE MINE SUPERINTENDENT!

KIND OF RUNS IN THE FAMILY.

TO THE NEW MINE ACCIDENT! THOSE MINERS COULD JUST HAVE BEEN BROUGHT OUT ALIVE IF THEIR AIR SUPPLY WAS BLOWN IN TO WHERE THEY WERE! THE MEDIA DID NOT TELL US WHAT CAUSED THEIR DEATHS.

I TOLD MIKE TO CONSULT WITH YOU AND TO DO SOME OF THE LISTENING. HE SHOULD NOT BE INSULATED FROM GOOD ADVISE. END OF PAGE.

LOVE TO YAL! AND THE FAMILY! DAD.