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General Comment:It is unconscionable to not adopt these regulations in light of recent mining disasters that could have been mitigated if these rules had been in place. The modest increase in initial expense that would result from higher safety equipment regulations is entirely justifiable given the inadequacy of the current safety equipment. It is time that the government expect more out of the mining industry. Requiring an out-of-step industry to utilize available technology to reduce the chance of further disaster is the right thing to do.

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