

1 limit their exposure, so it's administrative control and  
2 PAPRs, but again only if you can't control the environment  
3 downwind of the shear operator and using administrative  
4 controls. We're not substituting administrative controls  
5 for the PAPER.

6 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. The next presenter will be  
7 Rick Glover, UMWA.

8 MR. GLOVER: Thank you, Marvin. My name is Rick  
9 Glover, G-L-O-V-E-R. I work for the United Mine Workers.  
10 I've been in the industry approximately 30 years. I spent  
11 13 years actually underground, and the other 17 years I've  
12 pretty well represented the miners in southern West Virginia  
13 and also throughout the country.

14 You know, this is probably one of the most complex  
15 proposed rules in the history that I've been following  
16 health and safety and the times that I came and had the  
17 opportunity to speak before you all. I have learned more  
18 today than I did know about the rule before I walked in  
19 here.

20 I think we need to ask ourselves, because it's  
21 been talked about, why are there so much discrepancy between  
22 the federal advisory committee, and I would assume that this  
23 group had a lot of impact on writing these proposed rules.  
24 I would assume that. If not, correct me on that. Is that  
25 pretty well accurate?

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AB14-HEAR-2E□  
AB18-HEAR-2E

1 MS. KUEMPEL: I would like to add one  
2 clarification, the clarification that **NIOSH** is on the single  
3 shift sample rule. The second one dealing with the dust  
4 ventilation is MSHA, just for clarification.

5 MR. GLOVER: Yes. Yes. I understood that, but  
6 the point I'm going to make, and I think it's the reason why  
7 we keep referring to the advisory report and because for one  
8 we believe that will protect our miners much more than this  
9 proposed rule, and the reason is, and I think it was a fair  
10 question. I don't think it was what I will say is slighted  
11 against any individual sitting on this panel.

12 I was involved whenever they traveled the coal  
13 fields. They went, and they seen firsthand the dust  
14 conditions. They were in prep plants. They were in surface  
15 mines. They were underground. They talked to miners. They  
16 seen the coal dust on the miners faces so that I think it  
17 has more of a bearing, and I'm not slighting anyone on this  
18 panel, and I hope not to offend anyone. **If I** do, so be it,  
19 but I'm trying to say that we all do not realize sometimes  
20 how severe or how effective something is unless you go **do** it  
21 yourself.

22 I mean, it's easy just today. We're sitting in **a**  
23 room here breathing pretty good air, I would assume. **All**  
24 indication. I feel comfortable in here, but currently right  
25 today we have people that is in the mines mining coal and

1 the dust, and they're breathing dust.

2 It's kind of like when you live in Washington,  
3 D.C., and I won't slight you people. You live in Arlington  
4 probably. We've got people in our office, and I'm not  
5 slighting our office, that forget the reality in coal  
6 fields, but when you live there and you see the economic  
7 impact, you see miners having to do things that they never  
8 dreamed they'd have to do, and I'm speaking of breathing  
9 dust. It's called economic pressures.

10 They look toward this agency, which under the Act  
11 guarantees the most precious resource is the coal miner.  
12 Sometimes we get into economics and don't want to put a  
13 burden on a coal company, but whenever, you know, you open  
14 the Act or the first page of the Act we talk about that most  
15 precious resource.

16 Now, since mining of coal has begun we have had  
17 coal miners dying from black lung. I think we all can agree  
18 with that. I think we took a giant step in 1969. That's  
19 basically when I came into this industry, and I don't want  
20 to take too long and take too much of your time because I do  
21 know there's been a lot said here today, but I think it's  
22 important.

23 I'm going to refer back to my childhood because I  
24 grew up in a coal camp. I'll never forget the first victim  
25 of coal dust, and I was approximately ten years old. The

1 individual's name was Mr. Gerald, and he lived right up on  
2 the hill from where I was raised. He passed away, which at  
3 that time they called it silicosis. Now, I'll never forget  
4 my father saying he died from silicosis. It wasn't black  
5 lung. I can remember this because his wife run **down** to our  
6 home, and actually my dad rode up there, and me as a kid  
7 followed him up there. In all honesty, it was the first  
8 dead body I ever seen, so it had a big impact on me.

9           Anyway, the ambulance came. They took Mr. Gerald  
10 away. It made me wonder, you know, what is silicosis. I'd  
11 see my dad coming home with a dirty face, seen my  
12 grandfather later in years die from black lung. It's a slow  
13 death.

14           The point I'm making is it was there, it's for  
15 real, and I also believe it's there today. I'd say  
16 sincerely to everyone on this panel I think if we don't  
17 believe that and the four milligram or two milligram  
18 standard, and I'm going 'to throw some other things out that  
19 I think you should consider.

20           Really I think you should go back and review that  
21 advisory report and focus on what these individuals have to  
22 say here today because one of the reasons I don't want to  
23 take too much time, which it's probably going to take more  
24 than I want **to**, is they're going to tell you some of the  
25 hands on things that they do on a daily basis and the

1 conditions of work, and I don't want to take any time away  
2 from those individuals.

3           Going back, I come into the mine in 1970, and I  
4 seen the dirty faces, seen the dust, sucked the dust, seen  
5 my father die from black lung. The federal government said  
6 he didn't have it. When he passed away in 1997, my mother  
7 had already passed away. No dependents, but he asked me,  
8 because he was always denied black lung, to have a biopsy of  
9 his lungs. He knew he had black lung. He couldn't breathe.  
10 The x-rays, the blood gas at the hospital, all the things  
11 that they run him around said he didn't have it.

12           I did that. It was tough. I got the report.  
13 Sure enough, he had black lung. Severe stages of black  
14 lung. As Bolts referred to about the x-rays, Bolts Willis,  
15 about whenever you all came around and I guess a lot of  
16 people satisfied. Overall, you know, you didn't see on the  
17 x-rays near the amount of black lung they thought could be  
18 out there. I only make that point because the x-rays, the  
19 blood gases and everything is not telling the true story.

20           **So**, what do we have to **do**? We have to eradicate  
21 the dust. We've got an obligation to do that. It's the  
22 right thing to do. At whatever expense it takes this  
23 industry, this industry owes miners an environment that  
24 we're in today. This industry owes that to our miners day  
25 in and day out, and that's even if we talk about diesel, we

1 talk about dust, whatever the issue is. We deserve good air  
2 and good water. It's something the Lord give us, and we  
3 deserve it. It's something that our bodies has to have.

4 But, let's talk about black lung for just a  
5 second. We come up with regulations. Generally they're cut  
6 and dried. If you touch a trolley wire here, you know, we  
7 put barbs on it. If you touch it, it's going to bite you.  
8 You know it's there. You know how to protect yourself.

9 Black lung creeps up on you day after day after  
10 day, and we all know this. I'm just kind of going through  
11 something to share with you. Then it bites you all at once.  
12 Then the first thing you know, as Daryl talked about, we see  
13 our friends dying off. We find out they have black lung.

14 We have came a long ways, and I give **MSHA** a lot of  
15 credit. I give Congress a lot of credit in **1969**. A **lot of**  
16 people suffered for that in **1977** when we upgraded, but we  
17 cannot, the point I'm making, go back to a greater standard  
18 than we have.

19 Now, I can make some recommendations, and I fully  
20 support what the Federal Advisory Board did, the committee.  
21 They worked hard at it. They seen firsthand, but let's talk  
22 about the buffer zone. You talked just a little bit about  
23 the importance of two milligrams, and we'll kick it up there  
24 to I think it's **2.33** or something like that as a buffer zone  
25 for the valley part. You better do that or we all -- if any

1 thing passes their going to take it to court and tear it **all**  
2 to pieces. It's human nature. If I was a coal operator **I**  
3 might be doing the same thing. I wouldn't say if **I** would or  
4 I wouldn't. I haven't been in that predicament and don't  
5 plan on being in that predicament.

6 The point is let's do this. On your continuous  
7 miner sections, I know without a doubt that we can meet **a**  
8 one point standard milligram. One point in the continuous  
9 miner section. No doubt in my mind. We've got scrubbers.  
10 We've got air. We can do it. It's proven.

11 Let's talk about long walls for a second. We're  
12 talking about bumping them up to four. I'm convinced --  
13 well, I know you're shaking your head, Marvin. I'm just  
14 going to the extreme end. Under certain circumstances. Let  
15 me put it like that so you won't shake your head there **on**  
16 me.

17 MR. NICHOLS: Small.

18 MR. GLOVER: Small, yes. Okay. Let's go even  
19 with the small. Let's do away with that small. Let's go  
20 with the two point milligram standard on long wall and give  
21 it a little buffer zone, the same as **you** would on a one on a  
22 continuous miner section.

23 **If** you ever go to these airstream helmets, you've  
24 done away with any kind of engineering controls that will  
25 ever be considered. The bottom line is long walls will meet

1 a two point standard. If the guys want to wear an airstream  
2 helmet, that's fine, but as this guy has sit here all day,  
3 and I'd say it was pretty uncomfortable. He's going to talk  
4 about that, and I'm not going to get into it because he's  
5 going to tell you what the doggone -- being uncomfortable  
6 all day in that thing.

7 But say if you **do**. We can meet, I know, a two  
8 point standard on long walls. If you ever go to this, it's  
9 going to be exactly on the hearing protection. Now, think  
10 about it. I'm going to take a guess here. In **1978**, we had  
11 a Joy miner that had a scrubber on it. They disconnected  
12 that scrubber. I never did know why other than the boss  
13 come up there and said hey, this thing was sucking air in  
14 and spraying it down. This was the greatest thing I'd seen  
15 since I'd been in a coal mine.

16 I kept thinking and thinking, and it went for  
17 years. They never would say. It wasn't required. Well,  
18 then I come to find out a year or **so** later it was because of  
19 the noise. We've got to try to get the noise down. The  
20 scrubber is making too much noise.

21 Now, over the years we've over come that. We've  
22 got scrubbers, the greatest thing that's happened to take  
23 care of dust on continuous miners, but do you know how we  
24 got the scrubbers? It wasn't because coal operators cared  
25 about my lungs or coal miners' lungs or anybody in here. It



1 was because of extended cuts. That's the only reason that  
2 they put scrubbers on. That's the only reason. The sad  
3 part is the production dominated the protection for the  
4 miners on the Hill, and that's a fact. Some can disagree,  
5 but that's how Rick Glover feels because I've seen it.  
6 That's how this industry operates.

7 We do have some good companies out there. We have  
8 our share of bad companies. Currently right today we've got  
9 dust fraud out there. Currently right today we have miners  
10 dying, and currently right today we have investigations  
11 going on with **MSHA** about dust.

12 Now, I want to just talk a little bit about the  
13 effective plans, and then I'm going to wrap this thing up  
14 because there's a lot of people, and if we all keep talking  
15 a long time a lot of people aren't going to get it.

16 I've got some questions. Effective plans. I was  
17 looking at your overview here this morning, and as you go  
18 back, and I hope you come back with a better proposed rule,  
19 and I would really appreciate when you do that it's not **700**  
20 pages and it's pretty simplified, but go through the coal  
21 fields and do some briefing and educate us and then let us  
22 make some comments.

23 We may be able to help you a lot better because I  
24 haven't studied near as hard as Tom Wilson and a lot of  
25 other people, and I haven't looked at that. I don't

1 consider myself a dummy, but I'm far from the highly  
2 intelligent person, but I'll put my common sense up against  
3 any individual that ever walked around here, and practical  
4 mining is right up in there.

5 But effective plans. Let's just talk about that a  
6 minute. This is kind of like I'm trying to -- of what  
7 you're all wanting to do. You're going to come up with an  
8 effective plan that's going to meet a certain amount of  
9 milligrams, require the companies to go back, right? You're  
10 going to have miners not participating in developing this  
11 plan. Is that true?

12 MR. SCHELL: No.

13 MR. GLOVER: They will be involved in the -- I'm  
14 wanting you to help me here because I want to educate --

15 MR. SCHELL: Yes.

16 MR. GLOVER: -- the people myself, too.

17 MR. SCHELL: Yes. Rick, it's a ventilation plan.

18 MR. GLOVER: Yes?

19 MR. SCHELL: There's a requirement that that be  
20 shared with the miners.

21 MR. GLOVER: Yes, I know it's going to be shared.

22 MR. SCHELL: It's the same process that we go  
23 through now to get an approved ventilation dust control  
24 plan. We weren't proposing to change that.

25 MR. GLOVER: Okay. Now, we've got this effective

1 plan in place. We've had miner participation is what you're  
2 saying to get this effective plan, and we have run our dust  
3 surveys, and we have met all the criteria that you all got  
4 lined up, which is pretty complex, which is this going to be  
5 regulation, or is this going to be policy?

6 MR. SCHELL: It would be part of the ventilation  
7 plan, so it would be you can cite it.

8 MR. GLOVER: Okay. Now let's go to the next one,  
9 compliance with the plan. Now, whenever you come with  
10 compliance is that going to be your bimonthlies to see that  
11 your compliance --

12 MR. SCHELL: No. What we're saying, Rick, is a  
13 couple things. Once that plan is approved, we've got the  
14 requirement now that before every production shift the mine  
15 operator has to check to see that those controls are in  
16 place and operating.

17 MR. GLOVER: Right. That's the point that I was  
18 hoping would come out --

19 MR. SCHELL: Yes.

20 MR. GLOVER: -- because that was going to be my  
21 next question.

22 We've got a plan. MSHA is not going to be around  
23 for two months give or take a week or whatever. I mean,  
24 we've learned about, you know, that they're going to know  
25 they're coming. Well, let's say that every inspector in

1 MSHA is honest, and I know a heck of a lot of good ones, but  
2 the point I think some of them was making is how the company  
3 knows that today is dust day. Let's make sure we've got  
4 everything rolling. They've got signals.

5 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, but --

6 MR. GLOVER: Let me just finish here, Marvin, and  
7 then you can ask me all the questions you want to.

8 MR. NICHOLS: All right. Go ahead.

9 MR. GLOVER: I'm going to make some points, and I  
10 think it's important for everybody to understand. We've got  
11 our compliance. We're dependent on these dust perimeters,  
12 curtains, whatever will outline this plan.

13 I'd assume that the FAR section -- foremen,  
14 whoever, is going to make sure those curtains are there and  
15 the workers and everything like that for these two months,  
16 you know. Some of the inspectors will come and make a  
17 regular inspection where the curtains are up, take an air  
18 reading here and there. Am I getting pretty close?

19 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. I mean, in these underground  
20 mines of any size I dare say, especially the Jim Walter's  
21 mine and mines like that, we've got more than one or two  
22 inspectors in the mine.

23 MR. GLOVER: Do you know how many large mines we  
24 have in southern West Virginia?

25 MR. NICHOLS: I know you have a smaller number

1 than you used to have, but I don't know.

2 MR. GLOVER: We have a whole lot smaller.

3 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

4 MR. GLOVER: I'm not talking about our service  
5 mines. We're probably talking about somewhere around ten,  
6 and we've probably got about 300 small mines, 250, give or  
7 take.

8 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

9 MR. GLOVER: But anyway, I'm speaking of southern  
10 West Virginia.

11 So we will depend once again for the companies for  
12 two months to take care and make sure this effective plan  
13 stays in place. We've got the fox guarding the chicken  
14 house basically. The only trouble you're doing with it is  
15 you took all the responsibility and all of the burden off  
16 the operator, and the operator should be tickled to death.  
17 They don't have to worry about fraud. They just only have  
18 to, as has been mentioned earlier, every couple of months  
19 make sure I'm right.

20 MR. SCHELL: I guess, Rick, and I'm not being  
21 argumentative about it.

22 MR. GLOVER: This is being extreme, and I'm just  
23 laying out the extremes.

24 MR. SCHELL: What we're having trouble  
25 understanding is, and rightfully so, you've talked about how

1 ineffective operator sampling is.

2 MR. GLOVER: I haven't finished.

3 MR. SCHELL: Okay. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

4 MR. GLOVER: Yes. Now, I'm going to give you an  
5 idea on that. You've got **MSHA** going to come every two  
6 months. It will depend on the companies and the laborers,  
7 even the ones that has problems every day. We have good  
8 mines. We have bad mines. As I mentioned earlier, we have  
9 economic pressures on miners. They're doing things they  
10 never dreamed they'd have to do.

11 But, I'm going to tell you a solution to this.  
12 Monitoring the plan's effectiveness. MSHA comes bimonthly.  
13 Why not require to get the company to do the samples and do  
14 them more often to meet the criteria? Can there still be  
15 fraud? You better believe it, but at least if you're  
16 lowering the dust standard you make them take it whether  
17 it's once a week on the whole crew or you have designated  
18 operators.

19 There's got to be a solution. It keeps the  
20 responsibility, the burden, on the operator rather than just  
21 that every six months -- I mean every two months -- making  
22 sure I'm in compliance. He's got to do it more often is the  
23 point I've trying to make. You can never take that  
24 responsibility off **of** the operator.

25 Now, that may not make sense, but the direction

1 we're headed -- now, if you're going to be there every day  
2 or once a week and test the whole crew, I'd say hey, **MSHA**,  
3 which I think that's what should happen. I believe in  
4 continuous dust monitoring. If you can't come up with the  
5 technology, which I do believe is available from what's been  
6 told to me, that's the direction you should head.

7 That is the only way you'll ever know what miners  
8 are actually breathing. Sample them every day. They say  
9 boy, that gets expensive. It don't matter how expensive it  
10 is when it comes to people's health. Let them send them **to**  
11 you. If it's fraudulent, it will gradually come out, but  
12 you're holding the operator responsible, and you're not **just**  
13 saying you're no longer responsible for the conditions that  
14 your miners are working in but **for** every two months, and  
15 that's how I see this thing shaping up.

16 If we end up with policy, it will not be every six  
17 months, or it will not be every month or every three weeks.  
18 I don't know. Policy is no good, you know. I don't think  
19 we deserve policy. I think we should put it in black and  
20 white so the operators understand it, I understand it, the  
21 miner understands what they have, and we don't have to worry  
22 about it.

23 The only point I'm trying to make, and I'm not  
24 trying to be derogatory, but every two months that you all  
25 come around takes a heck of a burden off this industry.

1 They ought to be tickled to death. If you still make them  
2 do their -- I don't care if it's every day. Miners deserve  
3 it. We're mining more coal with less miners.

4 We should have more inspectors as many mines **as** is  
5 being shut down. You should have adequate work force out  
6 there. You all know that more than I do, but you should. I  
7 mean, I traveled **to D.C.** in the middle of the night **to** try  
8 to help you get your budget several times. It's been cut  
9 very minimal.

10 But anyway, that's an idea, and **I** throw that out.  
11 Whether it's right or wrong or indifferent, and **I** want to  
12 point out for sure the reason why we are **so** supportive **of**  
13 the advisory committee because they was there, and they seen  
14 it firsthand. Not slighting any individual here, but if you  
15 haven't been involved you should get involved. I know you  
16 are highly intelligent people. I don't want to take  
17 anything away from you when it comes to health, but there's  
18 a whole lot of difference from what you read in a book and  
19 what actually goes on when you get to doing it inside a coal  
20 mine.

21 The other point I wanted to make about effective  
22 plans. We have an effective plan, and you will come back in  
23 two months. What if in that two months you hit rock? The  
24 quartz goes up.

25 MR. NICHOLS: But keep in mind the bimonthly



1 sampling is minimum requirements.

2 MR. GLOVER: I understand that.

3 MR. NICHOLS: If the district managers chooses **to**  
4 sample every month he can do that, I mean, for conditions  
5 that -- a poor history of compliance or different  
6 conditions, mining in rock. We've never been shy about  
7 doing things in addition **to** the minimum.

8 MR. GLOVER: I understand that, Marvin, but the  
9 point I'm making or I'm trying to make is two months is way  
10 too long if we're serious about eradicating black lung in  
11 the coal mines because conditions change every day. Every  
12 day in a mine conditions change. We get in the bottom. We  
13 get in the top. We get in middle bands. Seams drop. Seams  
14 increase. Sometimes we've got to take extra because of the  
15 rolls. We've got to take extra top.

16 I'm just saying if we are serious about  
17 eradicating black lung in the coal mines, we've got to  
18 reduce those standards. ' Is it feasible? You better believe  
19 it is. **Go** back and do your research on continuous mining  
20 sections. You can reach the one milligram standard.

21 I just wanted to say this earlier, and I know  
22 we're ready to eat. If we ever go to accepting airstream  
23 helmets, we'll be exactly, exactly like our hearing  
24 protection.

25 Since MSHA, and relating back to that scrubber

1 about that noise and they disconnected it I was telling you  
2 in the late 1970s, you know, to meet. They used to have us  
3 putting rubber under the shields continuously working on  
4 trying to get the noise level down. MSHA comes along and  
5 comes out with a policy that the hearing protection is the  
6 route to go.

7           There was never -- very minimal. For one thing,  
8 there's no an incentive. The second thing is there's not a  
9 mandate. There was no engineering controls developed or  
10 very minimal -- they had no incentive to do it -- whenever  
11 we started accepting hearing protection in lieu of  
12 engineering controls.

13           If we start here with this and we open that door,  
14 it will come to your miner sections. It will come to your  
15 outby areas, and it will come everywhere else in the coal  
16 mines, You might as well put them in a space suit and walk  
17 them around.

18           MR. NICHOLS: It won't happen. I mean, it --

19           MR. GLOVER: It will, Marvin.

20           MR. NICHOLS: No. It's already been tried. When  
21 I go out in Alabama, out west, I see a lot of miners wearing  
22 airstream helmets that they choose to wear on their own.

23           We have been asked over and over by mine operators  
24 to consider those engineering controls, which we've never  
25 done, and we never will except for this one small area we're

1 talking about working downwind of the shear operator because  
2 we think as much as people say that they continued  
3 compliance day after day after day, there are some mines  
4 where you don't have compliance with the two milligram  
5 standard working downwind.

6 Now, is it better to keep arguing and say we have  
7 got it, or does it make sense to adopt some additional  
8 protection for the miner? That's all we're saying. I can't  
9 tell you how many times I've been asked to consider the  
10 airstream helmet in other sections of the mine as an  
11 engineering control. We've never done that.

12 MR. GLOVER: You're like I am, Marvin. One *of*  
13 these days I'm not going to be here and you're not going to  
14 be here. There will be somebody else here.

15 MR. NICHOLS: It isn't me. It's been the agency's  
16 position --

17 MR. GLOVER: Yes.

18 MR. NICHOLS: -- that it is not an engineering  
19 control.

20 MR. GLOVER: Okay. Anyway, you know, that's a  
21 point that I want to make because I think, **you** know, that **we**  
22 can very easily get into that posture. It may not be in  
23 your heart **to** do that. It may not be in anyone's in this  
24 room.

25 MR. NICHOLS: I've been with the agency almost 30

1 years, and --

2 MR. GLOVER: Yes.

3 MR. NICHOLS: -- it's been that position from day  
4 one.

5 MR. GLOVER: The only thing is you're going to  
6 retire one **of** these days.

7 MR. NICHOLS: One of these days I will.

8 MR. GLOVER: I'll just go ahead and close here  
9 because I've talked long enough, and I do want to thank each  
10 and every one of you.

11 I hope I don't offend anyone here because I know  
12 you're highly intelligent people, but I do know that you've  
13 got to look at the miners' environment. You've got to live  
14 it. You've got to know what it is to really understand why  
15 this is so critical and why we believe so hard in it. It's  
16 long past time to eradicate black lung in the coal mines.  
17 We have continuous monitoring available, and if we don't  
18 they should be sampling every day as far as I'm concerned.

19 **MSHA** should follow up with theirs like your plans  
20 are, but don't never take the responsibility of the  
21 operators off of them to where they put that responsibility  
22 entirely onto you unless you're going to do it every day  
23 with continuous monitoring and be there.

24 Now, that's Rick Glover's position. I encourage  
25 you to go back and review once again the advisory report and

1 look at why they felt like that. Whoever called the shots  
2 that this document was good or bad, you know, in you all's  
3 agency I don't know, but I do know that I've heard Davitt  
4 McAteer, and I can't give you a date, even said the only way  
5 we'll ever eradicate black lung is to get it down to at  
6 least one milligram. We can do that.

7 I don't know about long walls. I think we can in  
8 our area, but I can't speak in Alabama. In our areas, we  
9 can do that. If you want to increase the buffer zone, put  
10 it down to one milligram and like 1.25 so when we go to  
11 Court you can hold the operators.

12 What I say comes from my heart. I would just say  
13 in closing, you know, I want to take the opportunity to  
14 thank you for the time that you've given us because I've  
15 been before you up here, and maybe it's the right thing to  
16 do. You give someone five minutes. You don't get to say a  
17 whole lot in five minutes, but you all have been kind in  
18 letting us lay out all of our positions.

19 But, remember just what your objective is,  
20 whatever the final product comes out, and that is I hope to  
21 eradicate black lung. We've got a golden opportunity.  
22 Improve the working conditions, as referred to earlier, for  
23 our most valuable resource, which is our coal miners.

24 I thank you very much. Any questions? I'll be  
25 glad to try to answer them.

1           MR. NICHOLS: I think your comment about doing  
2 some **up** front briefing on these future rules is a good one;  
3 that we go out and try to do some with education.

4           MR. GLOVER: All right. Thank you.

5           MR. NICHOLS: Thank you, Rick.

6           (Applause.)

7           MR. NICHOLS: Okay. Let's break until 1:15.  
8 Larry Tolliver will be the first presenter after lunch.

9           (Whereupon, at 12:15 p.m. the hearing in the  
10 above-entitled matter was recessed, to reconvene at  
11 1:15 p.m. this same day, Thursday, August 10, 2000.)

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