

Received 6/27/03
MSHA/OSRV

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6-17-03

Mine Safety & Health Administration
Office of Standards, Regulations, & Variances
1100 Wilson Blvd., Room 2313
Arlington, Va. 22209-3939

Re: Coal Mine Dust Regulations

Mine Safety & Health Administration:

I oppose the proposed changes in the regulations that govern dust sampling and dust control in our coal mines. As the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) has noted, exposure to coal mine dust under the current regulations is still causing black lung and breathing impairment among working miners. Therefore, I believe that (1) MSHA should conduct unannounced dust sampling more frequently, (2) MSHA should use continuous monitoring devices as soon as they become available in order to more accurately determine actual dust levels within the mines, and (3) MSHA should reduce current coal mine dust levels (as recommended by NIOSH) until the harmful effect on the lungs of coal miners is stopped.

Respectfully,

Ronnie L Bower

AB14-COMM-133
AB18-COMM-129