

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** MSHA-2008-0014

Alcohol-and Drug-Free Mines: Policy, Prohibitions, Testing, Training, and Assistance

**Comment On:** MSHA-2008-0014-0001

Alcohol- and Drug-Free Mines: Policy, Prohibitions, Testing, Training, and Assistance

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Comment from Larry Hoffman, Blue Range Engineering Co., Inc.

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## General Comment

As with many well intentioned but one-size-fits-all regulations, this proposal undoubtedly has a place at mines that hire a large number of people from an even larger pool of applicants. However, it imposes an unfair burden on small miners and contractors who have few employees and are very selective in choosing those employees. Unlike a large mine, where individual shortcomings and unsafe behavior can be easily overlooked, the small mine depends on an intimate working relationship between the miners that is self-policing. Anyone with a drug or alcohol habit that affects his/her work, and the safety of others, will be corrected or discharged. The cost of drug testing would be onerous in both direct cost and lost time.

Even more ridiculous is the fact that the proposed regulation, if enacted like so many others, would be applied blindly to one-man or family operations where it has no applicability.

Many current regulations fall into this perspective under the new politically-driven enforcement of regulations without any regard to common sense or prevailing circumstances. Don't add another one.

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