



August 28, 2016

Mine Safety and Health Administration
Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances
201 12th Street South
Suite 4E401
Arlington, VA 22202-5462

Re: MSHA Docket 2014-0031 – Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

Submission via electronic means

Docket Officer:

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) expresses its appreciation to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) for the opportunity to comment on the effectiveness of the existing standards in controlling miners' exposures to diesel exhaust, including Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM). The Request for Information (RFI) was published in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2016, page 41486.

AIHA is the premier association serving the needs of professionals practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations. The AIHA mission is to promote healthy and safe working environments by advancing the science, principles, practice, and value of industrial hygiene. A healthy workforce is essential to the success of American industry, our economic recovery, and our future position in the global economy.

The issue of the effectiveness of the existing standards regarding DPM and the MSHA RFI was referred to the AIHA Mining Working Group.

The AIHA Mining Working Group facilitates a global community for industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety professionals, and other stakeholders committed to optimizing the health and safety of miners and mining process workers. To this end, we encourage the formation of a partnership between interested parties that seek to:

- identify gaps in and share knowledge,
- develop meaningful and informative education materials and mechanisms,
- seek consensus on best practice, and
- foster constructive collaborations around the globe to improve miner health and welfare.

The AIHA Mining Working Group and its members have an interest in the outcome of MSHA's work on this matter and are evaluating how we might help foster collaboration among the many parties that will be impacted by any amendments to diesel particulate matter (DPM) regulations.

AIHA requests the Mine Safety and Health Administration allow for and coordinate this process.

Our members are reviewing the specific questions posed in the RFI. Clearly, the questions posed are complex and will require technical input from a wide variety of interested parties. As mentioned above, a meaningful response to the MSHA RFI will require collaboration for a full understanding of the changing scientific knowledge base related to the potential health effects of worker exposure to diesel exhaust, as well as current technologies and mining practices.

The AIHA Mining Working Group supports MSHA's desire to evaluate the effectiveness of its current diesel particulate matter regulations to ensure they are protective of miners' health. We look forward to working together with MSHA and other stakeholders to better understand whether continued reductions in diesel particulate standards are warranted and to identify best practices to ensure our miners' safety and health.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process and for your consideration of this request. Please contact me or AIHA with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rustin Reed".

Rustin Reed
Vice Chair
AIHA Mining Working Group
rustin.reed@outlook.com

cc: AIHA Board of Directors
Nancy Green, AIHA Interim Executive Director