

Advisory Committee Recommendations to Eliminate Black Lung and Silicosis

Require mine operators and MSHA to verify that dust control plans are working

Require dust control plans at surface operations when dust levels exceed 1 /2 the standard

Examine dust control measures as part of on-shift examinations [30 CFR 75.362(a)(2)]

Require surface mine operators to sample every other month (as underground mine operators do)

Get miners more involved in dust sampling and in making sure dust control plans work

Develop a program to protect contractor employees exposed to respirable dust

==> Extend medical testing (chest x-rays) to surface miners, including contractor employees

==> Improve dust sampling and dust control training programs

==> Notify miners of all sampling results, work activities, dust controls used and production rates on sampling days

Examine the dust controls at mines where miners develop lung disease

The committee also made recommendations for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), including research on dust controls, health effects of dust exposure, improved medical screening, and evaluation of training methods. The committee also recommended that NIOSH develop dust sampling instruments to continuously monitor dust levels.

Call (202) 693-9600 or your local MSHA office for a copy of a pamphlet with more of the Advisory Committee Recommendations. The full 116-page report with all committee recommendations is available from MSHA on the Internet at www.msha.gov.