



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
Your Solution-Oriented Environmental Services Firm

MINE SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - RESPIRABLE SILICA

The Mine Safety and Health Administration recently published a Request for Information in the Federal Register regarding respirable silica. Comments are due October 28, 2019. This is likely the first step in moving forward with a revised silica regulation.

In the notice, MSHA mentions:

- the background for the existing limit,
- discusses existing controls including the history surrounding respiratory protection,
- relevant hierarchy of controls for mining (engineering, administrative and personal protective equipment in that order), and
- the basis of their information request.

With respect to the information request, MSHA is requesting:

- information on new or developing technologies and best practices that can be used to protect miners from exposure to quartz dust,
- information on how the controls can be used, individually and together, to protect miners,
- info on additional feasible dust control methods to reduce miners' exposure during high silica cutting situations, and
- any other information to evaluate miners' exposures to quartz.

We thank the Pennsylvania Aggregates and Concrete Association for this information.



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