



January 31, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVID G. ZATEZALO
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health

FROM: *Elliot P. Lewis*
ELLIOT P. LEWIS
Assistant Inspector General
for Audit

SUBJECT: Review of MSHA's Efforts to Protect Miners from Respirable Silica

This is an update on our review of the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) efforts to protect miners from exposure to respirable silica. At our Entrance Conference on November 14, 2019, we informed you that our objective was to review MSHA's silica dust regulations and enforcement. Based on our work to date, we have further refined our objective to answer the following three questions:

1. What are the current scientific and health standards relating to respirable silica?
2. How are MSHA's policies and practices aligned with these standards?
3. Does exposure to respirable silica have an impact on black lung disease?

Our work is ongoing and we will continue to keep you updated on the status. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Christopher, Audit Director, at (312) 353-2176 or Jon Ling, Audit Manager, at (415) 902-3833.

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