

Kind regards,

Kevin Kidd

From: James Dean <James.Dean@mail.wvu.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Chris Hamilton <CHamilton@wvcoal.com>; Kevin C. Kidd <Kevin.C.Kidd@wvago.gov>; Foster, Frank G <frank.g.foster@wv.gov>
Subject: RE: Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety Proposed Rule

Received. Thank you!

Jim

Jim Dean

Acting Administrator

Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety

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From: Chris Hamilton <CHamilton@wvcoal.com>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Kevin.c.kidd@wvago.gov; James Dean <James.Dean@mail.wvu.edu>; Foster, Frank G <frank.g.foster@wv.gov>
Subject: Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety Proposed Rule

October 9, 2023

Dear Mr. Kidd:

RE: Board's proposed changes to 48-4 (Initial Training Program for Prospective Mine Rescue Team Members and Additional Mine Rescue Requirements)

I am writing on behalf of the West Virginia Coal Association and our member companies in support of the above rule change proposed by the WV Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety which effectively allows working miners beyond age fifty (50) to participate on a mine rescue team.

When this rule was first written, there may have been questions concerning the health of miners at age fifty and whether they were capable of enduring the physical demands and rigors of mine rescue work. We do not believe this is the case today and as long as a miner meets the physical exam requirements imposed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration under the US Department of Labor, The State of West Virginia should accept their interest to serve with the "Special Forces" of the coal mining industry.

This is a positive change advanced by the Board which we wholeheartedly support!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this rule.

Chris Hamilton



Chris Hamilton

West Virginia Coal Association

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