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To: EP, RegComments
Subject: Board of Coal Mine Safety: Comments on proposed 25 Pa Code 208

Comments on Proposed 25 Pa. Code CH 208a, 40 Pa. B. 3836 (July 10, 2010)

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I strongly urge the adoption of these proposed regulations. Since January 1, 2010, over 44 miners have died in underground bituminous coal mines in the United States. Fortunately, none of these tragedies occurred in a Pennsylvania underground bituminous coal mine. The absence of fatal accidents in Pennsylvania's underground bituminous coal mines is due in large part to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's mine safety program administered and enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mine Safety. Adopting these regulations will increase the safety of miners by enhancing the Commonwealth's mine safety program without significantly increasing the mine operators' cost of doing business. I only have a few concerns with the proposed rulemaking.

§ 208.21. *Escapeways*

As noted in the Preamble's summary to this section the two escapeways may have a common air intake. This may not adequately protect the miners' safety. The ventilation in both escapeways will be compromised if the common air intake is damaged or contaminated, e.g. by a fire.