

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
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MEMORANDUM FOR KEVIN G. STRICKLIN
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Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

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SUBJECT: Fatality Review Committee Decision on Chargeability

Case No.: 2009-C-70-[REDACTED]

Deceased: [REDACTED]

Date of Incident: October 19, 2009

Date of Death: October 19, 2009

Operator: South Central Coal
Company

Mine: South Central Mine

Decision: Not chargeable

In a unanimous decision, the Fatality Review Committee has determined that the death of [REDACTED] should not be charged to the mining industry. [REDACTED], a mine examiner, was conducting the weekly examination of the main return air course when co-workers discovered him in an unresponsive state. The MSHA investigation found no signs of an accident and no evidence of any physical or environmental factors which might have contributed to the death. [REDACTED] was performing his normal duties during the shift and no strenuous activities were identified. He was reported to have experienced chest pains the day before.

The certificate of death and medical examiner's report indicated that the manner of death was natural and that the cause of death was atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. An autopsy found an enlarged heart and a 90% occlusion of two major coronary arteries. A carbon monoxide blood test found less than 5% COHb. A toxicology screen was negative for drugs of abuse.

Based on the certificate of death, the medical examiner's report and the MSHA investigation, the committee members concluded that [REDACTED] died from natural causes and that his death should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main
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