

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
1100 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939



MAR 09 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR KEVIN G. STRICKLIN
Administrator for Coal Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

JEFFREY A. DUNCAN 
Committee Chair
Director for Educational Policy and Development

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SYED HAFEEZ 
Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources

SUBJECT: Chargeability Review Committee Decision

Case No.: 2014-C-23-

Deceased: 

Date of Incident: March 11, 2014

Date of Death: March 11, 2014

Operator: BHP Billiton

Mine: San Juan Mine

Decision: Not chargeable

In a unanimous decision, the Chargeability Review Committee has determined the death of [REDACTED] should not be charged to the mining industry. [REDACTED], a 57 year old welder, was assigned to weld at the bottom level of the primary truck dump hopper. At lunch time, she told co-workers that she was not feeling well. After lunch, [REDACTED] began experiencing chest pains and contacted her supervisor, who summoned rescuers. She was placed in the mine ambulance, when shortly thereafter, she stopped breathing and had no pulse, causing the ambulance workers to conduct CPR. [REDACTED] was transferred to the San Juan Regional Medical Center ambulance and transported to a local hospital. She was declared dead later the same day.

The medical center discharge report indicated that the cause of death was ventricular fibrillation arrest secondary to distal LAD acute myocardial infarction, resulting in cardiogenic shock. An autopsy was not performed. MSHA's investigation did not identify any physical or environmental factors that could have contributed to the death.

Based on the findings of the medical center discharge report and the MSHA Investigation, the committee members concluded that [REDACTED] died due to natural causes and that her death should not be charged to the mining industry.

cc: Joseph A. Main
Douglas L. Parker
Patricia W. Silvey