



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
395 E Street, SW - Ste 9200
Washington, DC 20201
PH: 202-245-0625

AUG 5 2016

Mr. Mark G. Ellis
President
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
1200 18th Street, NW
Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ellis:

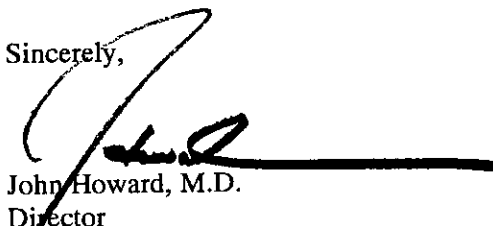
Thank you for your letter dated July 25, 2016 requesting that the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) form a Diesel Exhaust Health Effects Partnership with the mining industry, including both coal and metal/nonmetal mines, diesel engine manufacturers, and representatives of organized labor. We understand that the intent of this partnership would be to provide an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to come together to understand the current science around health effects of worker exposure to diesel exhaust and to reach a consensus concerning a path forward for addressing this complex issue in a variety of mining environments.

NIOSH has a successful track record for convening partnerships of this nature and our experience has been that they serve as a highly effective vehicle for stakeholder engagement and information sharing. Furthermore, these partnerships provide the opportunity for organizations with diverse perspectives to collaboratively solve complex technical problems using sound science. Lastly, partnerships support our mission to improve mine worker health and safety through research by allowing for more robust solutions to the health and safety challenges faced by today's mining industry.

We would be delighted to work with MSHA to set up a Diesel Exhaust Health Effects Partnership to address the many complex issues related to diesel exhaust exposure including health effects, best practices for monitoring, and new technologies including engineering controls for reducing exposure in a mining environment. Dr. Jessica Kogel, the NIOSH Associate Director for Mine Safety and Health Research, will serve as the lead for NIOSH for the Partnership. Dr. Kogel can be reached at JKogel@cdc.gov or 404.498.2580.

We look forward to working with the Partnership to achieve our shared goal of ensuring that mine worker health is protected.

Sincerely,



John Howard, M.D.
Director

cc:

Hon. Joseph Main, Assistant Secretary of Labor, MSHA
Jessica Kogel, Ph.D., NIOSH