



A publication of the  
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
PO Box 571  
Stayton, Oregon 97383  
[www.oraggregate.com](http://www.oraggregate.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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## *Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter*

**March 2024**

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2024 is under full swing as everyone adjusts to the changing weather and the impending summer season in the mining industry. OIAA held its annual Part 46 Training sessions in Albany and Roseburg on March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 130 miners that enthusiastically participated in the annual refresher that was presented by Adele Abrams Law Office. As is normal with Adele's presentations, we were informed of not only the previous years' safety issues and considerations, but also how the political environment shapes our inspections, rules, and regulations within MSHA.

Adele spent time on the Proposed Rule- Lowering miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection. She outlined her experiences and the need for pre-work exams to obtain a miner's baseline of respiratory health. The importance of testing and documenting work areas for Silica presence and quantities was also stressed. MSHA suggests that the existing standards for metal/not metal mines are insufficient at 100 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for limiting exposure to Silica. The new rule proposes to implement a 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup> standard to limit exposure to miners (calculated on 8-hour shift-same as existing rule). In addition, if a miner is exposed at or above 25 ug/m<sup>3</sup> there would be an action level to reduce health risks through periodic sampling until exposures are reduced below the stated action level. The new medical surveillance piece of the proposed rule is modeled by the existing requirements for coal miners. The intent is to reduce substantial disability due to Silica-related disease.

Ultimately, there are still a lot of unknowns with how this rule is going to affect miners' and businesses. The cost to run sampling alone is substantial according to Adele. We have passed the deadline for comments and stakeholders' meetings. Now we wait to see what a 2024 election could do to the success or failure of this Proposed Rule. For additional, more detailed reading, please see the attached article, posted on MSHA's website.

<https://www.msha.gov/regulations/rulemaking/silica>

Melissa Bronson  
OIAA Board Member/Secretary

## OIAA annual Part 46 Training- Albany Class



Adele Abrams - Instructor

## **Safepro 2024 June Law Institute:**

Even in the current situation MSHA is still doing inspections and writing citations. Understanding the laws and regulations that govern the mining industry are vital to managing your compliance and safety programs. Safepro covers the 1977 Act as amended by 2006 mine act in detail along with 30 CFR and program policies which give guidance to how the laws and regulations are to be enforced. The upcoming institute in Savannah June 11-13 will give you the knowledge coupled with your mining experience that allows you to improve on your current safety program and prepare for the imminent MSHA inspection. The Institute information will help you avoid bad citations and the knowledge to comply with the law and protect your people. The Safepro Institute information will add value to attendees and to their company.

Spouses are welcome if your company allows you to bring them. Shopping in Savannah is considered excellent. Malls and quaint shoppes are within easy walking distance from the hotel. Walking and riding tours of the city can be arranged during the week you are here. If you have any questions or wish to register, just contact us at [safeproinc.com](http://safeproinc.com). We want you to have a good time as well as a good learning experience. I look forward to seeing you Savannah Ga.

Yours in Safe Production

Best Regards,  
Dean Beam

### ***Current Board of Directors***

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## **May 8<sup>th</sup> 10AM KPD Insurance Conference Room**

**Our next Board meeting** will be held at the offices of KPD Insurance 1111 Gateway Loop Springfield, Oregon. All members are welcome.