

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human Services

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

932

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
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No 11/30/2022 11/30/2024

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

No

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

30 U.S.C. 812

### 13. Effective Date

11/09/1977

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program

Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee provides guidance and direction on high priority worker health & safety research topics for the mining industry through dialogue with the NIOSH Director, Associate Director for Mining, key research staff, and through presentations and discussion at the annual public meetings. The mining safety and health research program focused on several key topics including the reorganization of the Pittsburgh and Spokane Mining Research Divisions, the projects and facilities at the Pittsburgh Mining Research Division, the extramural contracts program, the

updates to the Mining Program Strategic Plan, intramural elongated mineral particle (EMP) research and extramural contracts related to respirable mine dust and crystalline silica. The Committee continues to be part of the process of review, development, and implementation of the research programs in these as well as other areas and the input and guidance from the Committee has been invaluable. There were other notable inputs from the Committee, however, these examples were identified as the most critical needs for the organization and highlighted at the Committee meeting.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee is comprised of 10 public members and 3 ex-officio members; these members include both minority and female representatives. The membership includes a balanced mix of members representing key mining stakeholder groups from both labor and industry in the coal, metal/nonmetal, and stone, sand, and gravel sectors; the remaining members are from appropriate research and public health and safety organizations such as academia, medical fields, or relevant public institutions and provide further opportunity to achieve balance.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings take place annually, at the discretion of the Designated Federal Official (DFO), Associate Director for Mining, and the Chair, but on occasion meetings have been held twice a year when necessary. The meetings are relevant as the Committee provides direction and guidance on high priority topics and research needs for the mining industry. This guidance is used by NIOSH

leadership in formulating and directing research programs.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Committee was established under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to provide advice and recommendations on the conduct of mine health and safety research. The health and safety research needs of the mining industry are both complex and varied and the guidance and input received from the Committee helps ensure that NIOSH's mining program addresses the most critical needs on a timely basis. Since the Committee is composed of representatives from all major mining stakeholder groups and representatives from the occupational health and safety community, the input received during the committee meetings is invaluable for program planning. The Committee members also provide help and guidance on conducting NIOSH research studies by identifying the relevance and applicability of specific experiments, and guidance to facilitate the transfer of NIOSH products, services, and information to mine workers.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

All meetings held are open - no meetings are closed to the public.

**21. Remarks**

No formal reports are required in the charter or legislation; the committee provides advice and recommendations through various means other than formal reports. One new workgroup was established, Mace Underground Mine Safety and Health Research Laboratory Development Workgroup in FY 2023. Two workgroups

concluded their activities during the last fiscal year but led to the formation of two partnerships, the Automation & Emerging Technologies H&S Partnership, and the Miner Health Partnership; MSHRAC members participate individually in Partnership meetings. One new workgroup was established, the Respirable Coal Mine Dust Workgroup, to report on potential health and safety issues related to respirable coal mine dust (RCMD) and respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in all mining segments. While still in the planning stages, the workgroup plans to organize and facilitate a mining stakeholder public meeting to discuss RCMD and RCS as input to their report to the full Committee. Committee members appointment start dates were updated: Kristina Behringer, 6/6/2021 - 12/23/2024; Andrea Brickey, 6/4/2021 - 12/34/2024; Thomas Duffy, 6/4/2021 - 12/23/2024; Steven Schafrik, 6/3/2021 - 12/23/2024; and Matthew Stewart, 6/4/2021 - 12/23/2024. Ex Officio Members were added: Giovanna Biscontin, appointment start date 03/8/2022 - 03/7/2026; and Melanie D. Calhoun, appointment start date 3/27/2019 - 3/26/2024.

## Designated Federal Officer

Steven E. Mischler DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Behringer, Kristina	06/06/2021	12/23/2024	WY Health Optum	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Biscontin, Giovanna	03/08/2022	03/07/2024	The National Science Foundation	Ex Officio Member
Bowersox, Ronald	12/24/2020	12/23/2023	United Mine Workers of America	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Brickey, Andrea	06/04/2021	12/23/2024	South Dakota School of Mines	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Calhoun, Melanie	03/27/2019	03/26/2024	United States Department of Labor - Mine Safety and Health Administration	Ex Officio Member
Duffy, Thomas	06/04/2021	12/23/2024	The United Steel Workers	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Harman, Thomas	04/08/2019	12/23/2024	Occupational Health and Safety Management	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Miller, Aubrey	04/10/2014	12/23/2023	National Institutes of Health	Ex Officio Member
Pritchard, Elizabeth	12/24/2021	12/23/2025	National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schafrik, Steven	06/03/2021	12/23/2024	University of Kentucky	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stewart, Matthew	06/04/2021	12/23/2024	R. T. Vanderbilt Holding	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zimmer, Kyle	04/04/2019	12/23/2023	International Union of Operating Engineers	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 12**

### **Narrative Description**

The Committee provides both a scientific and peer review of the current mining health and safety research program, as well as guidance for future program planning. The program reviews have focused on the high-priority research topics and the Committee helps ensure the scientific integrity of these programs. The members of the Committee have helped transfer the knowledge and findings from the research program by carrying the information

back to their respective organizations. In some cases, Committee members have provided both assistance and direction in finding appropriate field sites for conducting research experiments once the laboratory phase of the study has been completed.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The Committee is composed of representatives from all major stakeholder groups of the mining community. This includes labor and industry representatives from the coal, metal/nonmetal, and stone, sand, and gravel mining sectors, as well as other federal government agencies, the academic community, and other health and safety practitioners. The input received from the members and the message they carry back to their respective organization has helped the collaboration and implementation of research projects at specific mine sites and the technology transfer of research findings to the mining industry.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Over \$10,000,000  
Cost Savings Other

☐  
☐

### **Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

26

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Committee made one recommendation during fiscal year 2023. At the May 24, 2023 meeting the Committee recommended the establishment of the Mace Underground Mine Safety and Health Research Laboratory Development Workgroup. The Committee members individually commented on or made suggestions in response to the presentations at the Committee meetings that were held on December 8, 2022, and May 24, 2023, eliciting significant discussion.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

All recommendations have been accepted by the agency.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

NA

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

All recommendations of the Committee are conveyed in the meeting minutes and posted on the Agency web site. The DFO coordinates any required responses to specific



recommendations to the Committee by email. The responses are addressed and discussed at the next Committee meeting and included in the posted minutes.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

MSHRAC is not a grant review committee.

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A