

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee

Report Run Date: 04/25/2026 01:37:49 AM

1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Health and Human Services	2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Mine Safety and Health Research Advisory Committee	932

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	11/30/2024	11/30/2026	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
30 U.S.C. 812	11/09/1977	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
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The agenda will include discussions on NIOSH mining safety and health research organizational structure, capabilities, projects, and outcomes; discussions on intramural and extramural silica research; and a verbal report from MSHRAC's Mace 11/07/2024 - 11/07/2024 Underground Mine Safety and Health Research Laboratory Development Workgroup. The meeting will also include an update from the NIOSH Associate Deputy Director, Mine Safety and Research.

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$2,293.00	\$2,293.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$63,614.00	\$38,308.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$5,401.00	\$5,453.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$3,363.00	\$2,466.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$5,748.00	\$5,807.00

18e. Total Costs	\$81,919.00	\$56,827.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.40

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. 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 under the Charter or legislation; the Committee provides advice and recommendations through other means. One new workgroup was established in FY 2023: the Mace Underground Mine Safety and Health Research Laboratory Development Workgroup, which concluded in November 2024. Former workgroups concluded their activities and led to the formation of partnerships: the Automation & Emerging Technologies H&S Partnership and the Miner Health Partnership. MSHRAC members participate individually in Partnership meetings. 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. Aubrey Miller resigned 11/23/23. The Designated Federal Officer served as the Chair all meetings in FY25. The Committee does not have a current Chair.

Designated Federal Officer

Robert F. Randolph DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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Behringer, Kristina	06/06/2021	12/23/2024	WY Health Optum	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Biscontin, Giovanna	03/08/2022	03/07/2026	The National Science Foundation	Ex Officio Member
Brickey, Andrea	06/04/2021	12/23/2024	South Dakota School of Mines	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Calhoun, Melanie	03/27/2019	03/26/2026	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
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

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

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 no recommendation during fiscal year 2025. The Underground Mine Safety and Health Research Laboratory Development Workgroup presented a draft report to the committee at the November 2024 meeting.

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 website. 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
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

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
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

N/A