

Mining Weekly
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One of the biggest environmental concerns for mines is airborne dust. According to the *NSW Environmental Compliance and Performance Report*, “Managing dust from coal mines is important as it can impact local and regional air quality, adversely affect local amenity and pose a risk to the public health.” A large amount of dust exists on mining sites and is generated from bulldozing, blasting and moving vehicles along dirt roads. Mining dust particles are also generated when the wind blows over the stockpiles. All these particles floating in the air around the mining site are harmful to the workers, as well as anyone in the area.

When this type of mining dust or particulate matter is trapped in the airways, the human body’s respiratory system has a number of defense mechanisms that protect us against the harmful effects. These particles are, “often trapped in sticky mucus on the walls of the airways and can be removed by cilia, small hair-like objects which line the surface of the airways. This mucus can then be swallowed or coughed up.” However, numerous studies have linked high particle levels in the air, to increased hospital and emergency room admission, asthma, heart disease, lung disease and even death. (2010, *Mine Dust and You*)

To help with this increasing issue, **Mantek** has created a product called **Settler**, which keeps dust settled in mines and reduces the amount of mining dust circulating through the air. It reduces the surface tension in the soil, which allows for faster and deeper water absorption to prevent muddy areas. Mantek Settler also improves work site safety, by providing better dirt compaction to eliminate shifting after construction is completed and prevent dirt slides. Mantek Settler can be used in mines and quarries, cement plants, building and road construction, trenches, athletic fields, horseracing tracks, auto raceways or lumberyards.

Founded in 1919, Mantek is a premier manufacturer and supplier of industrial and commercial maintenance products, services and solutions. Mantek is proud to offer a broad range of products including specialty lubricants, welding and cryogenically treated drill bits, spill absorbents, patching compounds and coatings, electronic and electrical cleaners, safety solvents and degreasers. Professionals have relied on Mantek to protect equipment and improve efficiency for over 90 years.

To learn more about Settler or to find more information about Mantek visit www.mantek.com.au

References:

(2010). *Mine Dust and You*. [ONLINE] Available at:
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/mine-dust.aspx>. [Last Accessed April 13,

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