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U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Arlington, Va.
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For Immediate Release

Aug. 27, 2013
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MSHA announces results of July impact inspections

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration today announced that federal inspectors issued 149 citations and 16 orders during special impact inspections conducted at nine coal mines and four metal/nonmetal mines last month.

The monthly inspections, which began in force in April 2010 following the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine, involve mines that merit increased agency attention and enforcement due to their poor compliance history or particular compliance concerns. These matters include: high numbers of violations or closure orders; frequent hazard complaints or hotline calls; plan compliance issues; inadequate workplace examinations; a high number of accidents, injuries or illnesses; fatalities; adverse conditions, such as increased methane liberation, faulty roof conditions and inadequate ventilation; and respirable dust.

One impact inspection conducted at Affinity Coal Company LLC’s Affinity Mine in Raleigh County, W.Va., resulted in 13 citations, 10 unwarrantable failure orders and one imminent danger order. MSHA inspectors secured communications from the surface to prevent the possibility of advance notice.

The imminent danger order was issued when a foreman was seen riding as a passenger in the bucket of a rubber-tired scoop in a wet, rough and uneven entry. Riding in the bucket violated a safeguard MSHA issued on Sept. 17, 2012. A miner riding in the bucket of a scoop can be thrown from the bucket and crushed. There have already been two fatalities involving scoops this year at the Affinity Mine.

Five of the unwarrantable failure orders were issued for violations of the mine’s ventilation plan. MSHA measured no ventilation on a section where two miners were operating a roof bolter, and only 150 cubic feet per minute of ventilation on another section where the ventilation plan required 7,800 cfm and the operator was actively mining coal. These conditions have the potential to result in methane and dust accumulations that may result in an explosion or fire, and expose miners to conditions that can lead to black lung. Other similar conditions of airflow significantly below the mine’s ventilation plan requirements were found by MSHA inspectors.

The operator also allowed excessive accumulations of combustible materials in the form of dry coal and coal dust ranging from 5 inches to 2 feet deep. Enforcement personnel identified 10 areas where the operator failed to apply rock dust along the mine roof and ribs for up to 80 feet, creating conditions that exposed miners to potential ignition and explosion hazards. The mine was cited for inadequate pre-shift examinations.

In addition, one unwarrantable failure order was issued for a violation of the roof control plan where the operator did not install reflectors to signal the last row of roof supports. Warning signals are required to prevent miners from entering areas where the mine roof is not supported and could collapse on them.

“While many mine operators have improved working conditions at their mines, we continue to see unacceptable conditions at some mines that put lives at risk,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Joseph A. Main. “The type of conditions found by inspectors during this surprise inspection are the type that can expose miners to methane and coal dust explosions and black lung, and cannot be tolerated in the mining industry.”

U.S. Department of Labor news materials are accessible at <http://www.dol.gov>. The information above is available in large print, Braille or CD from the COAST office upon request by calling 202-693-7828 or TTY 202-693-7755.



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Since April 2010, MSHA has conducted 642 impact inspections and issued 10,789 citations, 996 orders and 45 safeguards.

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MSHA Monthly Impact Inspection List

(July 2013)

July 2013

Coal

Mine Information						Type of Issuance				S&S Information				Issuances - Type of Action									Justifications																				
District	State	Mine ID	Controller Name	Operator Name	Mine Name	Cit	Orders	Safe -guards (Coal only)	Total	S&S	Non-S&S	Total	S&S Rate	104(a)	104(b)	104(d)(1) Citation	104(d)(1) Order	104(d)(2)	104(e)(2) Order	314(b)	103(k)	104(g)(1)	103(j)	107(a)	Total	1. Operator Tactics	2. Hazard Complaints /Hotline Calls	3. Plan Compliance Issues	4. Inadequate Exams	5. Accidents, Injuries, Illnesses	6. Fatal Accidents	7. Enforcement History	8. Adverse Conditions	9. Respirable Dust Issues									
District 02	PA	3605018	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.	Cumberland Coal Resources LP	Cumberland Mine	4	0	0	4	1	3	4	25.00%	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4																		
District 03	WV	4609192	Arch Coal Inc	ACI Tygart Valley	Leer Mine	14	0	0	14	5	9	14	35.71%	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1																	
District 04	WV	4608878	Metinvest B V	Affinity Coal Company, LLC	Affinity Mine	13	11	0	24	15	8	23	65.22%	13	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24																	
District 05	VA	4407223	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.	Paramont Coal Company Virginia LLC	Deep Mine 41	30	0	0	30	19	11	30	63.33%	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30					1		1	1										
District 06	KY	1518575	James H Booth	Matrix Energy LLC	No. 1	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	0.00%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			1															
District 07	KY	1519486	Tina Davenport; John C Davenport	Davex Energy, LLC	Davex Energy, LLC #1	22	0	0	22	12	10	22	54.55%	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22			1	1				1	1									
District 09	UT	4202241	Robert E Murray	Utah American Energy, Inc.	Lila Canyon	3	0	0	3	0	3	3	0.00%	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3																		
District 10	KY	1517216	Alliance Resource Partners LP	Warrior Coal LLC	Cardinal	15	0	0	15	4	11	15	26.67%	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15												1						
District 12	WV	4609215	Joe Valis	Glen Alum Operations, LLC	Upper Cedar Grove Mine No 5	20	0	0	20	6	14	20	30.00%	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20					1													
9						National Totals				123	11	0	134	62	71	133	46.62%	123	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	134	1	1	2	1	2	1	5	2	1

July 2013

Metal Nonmetal

Mine Information						Type of Issuance				S&S Information				Issuances - Type of Action									Justifications																	
District	State	Mine ID	Controller Name	Operator Name	Mine Name	Cit	Orders	Safe -guards (Coal only)	Total	S&S	Non-S&S	Total	S&S Rate	104(a)	104(b)	104(d)(1) Citation	104(d)(1) Order	104(d)(2)	104(e)(2) Order	314(b)	103(k)	104(g)(1)	103(j)	107(a)	Total	1. Operator Tactics	2. Hazard Complaints /Hotline Calls	3. Plan Compliance Issues	4. Inadequate Exams	5. Accidents, Injuries, Illnesses	6. Fatal Accidents	7. Enforcement History	8. Adverse Conditions	9. Respirable Dust Issues						
NE	NH	2700468	Stephen Lowe	S & S Sand & Gravel	Kolvula Trust Map 6 Lots 20B & 20C	5	4	0	9	6	3	9	66.67%	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9				1											
NC	IL	1102864	Riverstone Group	RiverStone Group Inc	Troy Grove Stone Quarry (MC46)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0														
RM	AZ	0200137	Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc	Freeport-McMoRan Bagdad Inc	Freeport-McMoRan Bagdad Inc	6	0	0	6	0	6	6	0.00%	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6				1	1	1	1								
WE	AK	5001642	Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd	Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC	Pogo Mine	15	1	0	16	6	10	16	37.50%	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	1	1			1		1	1	1						
4						National Totals				26	5	0	31	12	19	31	38.71%	26	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Total		13				National Totals				149	16	0	165	74	90	164	45.12%	149	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	0	1	165	2	2	2	3	4	2	9	3	1		