



# News Release

Connect with DOL at  
<http://social.dol.gov!>



U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C.  
Release Number: 13-1093-NAT

For Immediate Release

May 30, 2013

Contact: Amy Louviere  
Phone: 202-693-9423  
Email: [Louviere.Amy@dol.gov](mailto:Louviere.Amy@dol.gov)

## MSHA announces results of April impact inspections

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration today announced that federal inspectors issued 106 citations, 13 orders and one safeguard during special impact inspections conducted at nine coal mines and two 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.

As an example from last month, MSHA conducted an impact inspection April 17 at Fork Creek No. 1 Mine, Coal River Mining, LLC in Lincoln County, W.Va., covering extensive areas of the mine and issuing four closure orders and 10 citations.

The mine was cited for inadequate examination of one of the conveyer belts where hazardous conditions existed – inspectors found that top-structure rollers were not immediately removed or repaired on the belt during the examination. Although maintenance shift records showed that two sections of the top structure of the belt needed replacement, the hazardous conditions were not recorded in the official examination book. Inspectors also found a broken inner support bracket, the canister roller turned on the structure frame, and a groove worn into the frame that was hot to the touch.

Inspectors found 31 locations where belt strings (cords) intertwined with the belt roller and hanger. This creates a potential fire and smoke inhalation hazard.

Among other violations cited, inspectors found that the mine operator failed to follow the MSHA-approved methane/dust control plan for the roof bolter. Without proper ventilation to dilute the air and carry away dust and harmful gases, miners are exposed to respiratory hazards that increase their risk of developing black lung, silicosis and other respiratory diseases. Power cables on a shuttle car operating in a wet area of the mine were not properly maintained and posed an electrocution hazard. The cable insulation was damaged and not repaired to prevent moisture from entering the conductor.

This was the second impact inspection at Fork Creek No. 1. In February, the mine was issued 16 ventilation violations, 13 of which were closure orders for the operator’s unwarrantable failure to comply with health and safety standards, including serious violations of its ventilation plan.

“This latest inspection is an example of a mine that still doesn’t get it,” said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “The violations that were issued show the troublesome behavior that takes place at some mines when MSHA inspectors are not expected to show up.”

Since April 2010, MSHA has conducted 602 impact inspections and issued 10,297 citations, 961 orders and 44 safeguards.

###

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.

### MSHA Monthly Impact Inspection List

(April 2013)

April 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	1	2	0	3	2	1	3	66.67%	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1										
District 03	MD	1800780	Corsa Coal Corporation	Maryland Energy Resources, LLC	Casselman Mine	4	0	0	4	1	3	4	25.00%	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4											
District 04	WV	4608763	James O Bunn; Franklin D Robertson	Coal River Mining LLC	Fork Creek No 1	10	4	0	14	12	2	14	85.71%	10	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14							1				
District 05	VA	4406748	SunCoke Energy Incorporated	Dominion Coal Corporation	Mine No. 30	23	0	0	23	7	16	23	30.43%	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23						1		1			
District 06	KY	1516470	TECO Energy Inc	Premier Elkhorn Coal Company	Burke Branch Tipple	8	0	0	8	4	4	8	50.00%	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8							1				
District 07	KY	1517903	Randall Fleming; Teresa Fleming	Yellow Rose Coal, LLC	Mine No.2	15	0	1	16	12	4	16	75.00%	15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16			1	1				1	1		
District 09	UT	4202233	Robert E Murray	West Ridge Resources Inc	West Ridge Mine	7	0	0	7	1	6	7	14.29%	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1					1		1				
District 10	KY	1517741	Robert E Murray	KenAmerican Resources Inc	Paradise #9	14	0	0	14	8	6	14	57.14%	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14							1				
District 12	WV	4601816	Cliffs Natural Resources Inc	Pinnacle Mining Company LLC	Pinnacle Mine	11	0	0	11	1	10	11	9.09%	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11							1				
<b>9</b>						<b>National Totals</b>				<b>93</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.00%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

April 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			
WE	ID	1000082	U S Silver & Gold	U.S. Silver - Idaho, Inc.	Galena	3	0	0	3	2	1	3	66.67%	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1									
NE	WV	4600007	Italcementi Spa	Essroc Cement Corp.	Essroc Cement Corp.	10	7	0	17	10	7	17	58.82%	9	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	1		1				1	1		
<b>2</b>						<b>National Totals</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60.00%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>						<b>National Totals</b>				<b>106</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>