



News Release

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MSHA announces results of August impact inspections

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration today announced that federal inspectors issued 213 citations, 23 orders and one safeguard during special impact inspections conducted at nine coal mines and five metal/nonmetal mines last month.

The monthly inspections, which began 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, inadequate ventilation and respirable dust.

An impact inspection conducted on Aug. 1 at JJ&E Coal Corp.’s Horse Creek Mine No. 2 in McDowell County, W.Va., resulted in: eight unwarrantable failure orders, one task training order, one imminent danger order and 36 104(a) citations. MSHA enforcement personnel inspected the one producing section, two coal conveyor belts and the surface area of the mine. They also traveled every air course, escapeway and beltline. At the time of the inspection, the day shift production crew was underground on the working section. Because the maintenance crew did not work the previous shift, all conditions observed were as the previous day-shift production crew had left them and after preshift examinations were made.

Inspectors found accumulations of loose coal and coal fines up to 30 inches deep the entire length of the two conveyer belts, which were 350 feet and 750 feet long, respectively. Bottom belt rollers on both conveyors turned in these accumulations up to 6 inches deep, a potential fire hazard. These conditions had been documented by the mine superintendent and mine manager during the preshift/on-shift examinations every day for almost a week, noting in daily inspection records since July 27 that each belt “needs additional cleaning, work in progress.” There was no evidence work had been done to clean these belts.

Additionally, MSHA cited the mine operator for violating roof support, ventilation, electrical and surface regulations. Inspectors observed roof bolting machine operators installing roof bolts with no ventilation curtain installed. When tested with chemical smoke, there was no air movement detected. Operating mining machinery without adequate ventilation exposes miners to respirable dust that can lead to black lung, and it can result in accumulations of gas and coal dust that increase the chance of a fire or explosion.

MSHA issued an imminent danger order to JJ&E based on its practice of: conducting inadequate mine examinations, failure to provide adequate compliance oversight, failure to comply with approved ventilation and roof control plans, recurring hazardous conditions and the number of citations and orders that were issued in the past year and remained outstanding at the time of this impact inspection. Production was allowed to resume Aug. 13, when all citations and orders associated with the impact inspection were terminated and cited conditions corrected. The operator developed and implemented a compliance plan; and improvements were made to the roof control and ventilation plans. This was the second impact inspection at this mine.

“The types and seriousness of the conditions found at this mine put miners at risk of great harm,” said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “They cannot and will not be tolerated.”

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Since April 2010, MSHA has conducted 656 impact inspections and issued 11,002 citations, 1,019 orders and 46 safeguards.

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MSHA Monthly Impact Inspection List

(August 2013)

August 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 03	WV	4601456	Patriot Coal Corporation	Eastern Associated Coal LLC	Federal No 2	19	4	0	23	11	12	23	47.83%	18	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	1	1								
District 04	WV	4607938	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.	Elk Run Coal Co.	Black Castle Mining Co	16	0	0	16	10	6	16	62.50%	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16										
District 05	VA	4407269	Metinvest B V	Banner Blue Coal Company	Middle Fork Hagy	22	0	0	22	6	16	22	27.27%	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22										
District 06	KY	1518884	Jason D Ousley	Tram Energy LLC	#1	18	8	1	27	16	10	26	61.54%	18	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	1	1	1						
District 07	KY	1509636	James River Coal Company	Blue Diamond Coal Company	#77	5	0	0	5	3	2	5	60.00%	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5			1	1						
District 08	IL	1102664	Arch Coal Inc	ICG Illinois, LLC	Viper Mine	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	50.00%	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			1							
District 09	UT	4202335	Rhino Resource Partners LP	Castle Valley Mining LLC	Castle Valley Mine #4	14	0	0	14	6	8	14	42.86%	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14										
District 10	KY	1519358	Armstrong Energy Corporation LLC	Armstrong Coal Company Inc	Parkway Mine	8	0	0	8	2	6	8	25.00%	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8										
District 12	WV	4609340	Dennis B Hagerman *	JJ&E Coal Corporation	Horse Creek Mine No 2	36	10	0	46	15	30	45	33.33%	36	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	1	46											
9						National Totals				140	22	1	163	70	91	161	43.48%	139	0	1	4	16	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	6	1	0	0	0	0

August 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					
NC	IN	1200064	Buzzi Unicem S P A	Buzzi Unicem USA	Lone Star Industries	18	0	0	18	0	18	18	0.00%	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18		1											
NC	MN	2103708	Kilen Boe	Minn-Dak Asphalt, Inc	Crusher #1	27	0	0	27	6	21	27	22.22%	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27			1										
NC	MI	2003213	Scott R Holloway	Holloway Co.	Screener Sand & Gravel	5	0	0	5	1	4	5	20.00%	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5													
WE	AZ	0200843	Mercator Minerals Ltd	Mineral Park Inc.	Mineral Park Inc.	5	0	0	5	0	5	5	0.00%	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1		1	1								
WE	CA	0405547	James Bradley Slender	BCJ Sand and Rock Inc	BCJ Sand and Rock Inc	18	1	0	19	12	7	19	63.16%	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	1	1											
5						National Totals				73	1	0	74	19	55	74	25.68%	73	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	5	2	1
Total		14		National Totals		213	23	1	237	89	146	235	37.87%	212	0	1	4	17	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	237	4	4	3	4	3	1	11	3	1				

* as of 08/15/2013, Kenneth R Vance is Controller for Horse Creek Mine No 2