

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

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January 6, 2026

SECRETARY OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION (MSHA)

v.

WARRIOR MET COAL MINING, LLC

Docket No. SE 2025-0082
A.C. No. 01-01247-000612036

BEFORE: Rajkovich, Chair; Jordan, Baker, and Marvit, Commissioners

ORDER

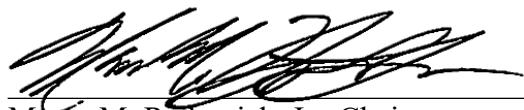
BY THE COMMISSION:

This matter arises under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et seq. (2018) (“Mine Act”). On March 31, 2025, the Commission received from Warrior Met Coal Mining, LLC (“Warrior Met”) a motion seeking to reopen a penalty assessment that had appeared to become a final order of the Commission pursuant to section 105(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. § 815(a).

Warrior Met asserts that it never received the proposed assessment until after the deadline for contesting it had passed. The Secretary notes that records cannot confirm whether the Mine Safety and Health Administration’s (“MSHA”) mailed proposed assessment was delivered to and received by Warrior Met. As such, she does not oppose Warrior Met’s motion to reopen.

We note that U.S. Postal Service tracking indicates that the proposed assessment was out for delivery on December 23, 2024, but that USPS initiated return-to-sender efforts later the same day. The proposed assessment was eventually returned to the Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania post office on December 26, 2024.

Having reviewed Warrior Met's request and the Secretary's response, we conclude that the proposed penalty assessment did not become a final order of the Commission because it was never properly served on the operator. The Commission has held that when an assessment is sent to the wrong address, it does not become a final order, so a request to reopen it is moot. *See Petra Materials*, 32 FMSHRC 1113, 1116 (Sept. 2010); *see also, e.g., American Sand Co. LLC*, 42 FMSHRC 767 (Oct. 2020) (applying this principle to an order of default when the Chief Judge's order to show cause was sent to the wrong address). This obviates any need to invoke Rule 60(b). Accordingly, the operator's motion to reopen is moot, and this case is remanded to the Chief Administrative Law Judge for further proceedings pursuant to the Mine Act and the Commission's Procedural Rules, 29 C.F.R. Part 2700. .



Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., Chair



Mary Lu Jordan, Commissioner



Timothy J. Baker, Commissioner



Moshe Z. Marvit, Commissioner

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