

From: Francis E. Wehr Sr [fewchristiew@netzero.com]
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As a past Federal Coal Mine Inspector I think if you want to get the attention of the coal operator you need to not look at fines. Fines to big operator means nothing in their pocket a small operator maybe. For all serious violations the area need to be shut down and stop production until the condition is corrected. The lost of production is where you get the attention of the operator not the small fine. The fines imposed is penny on the ton of coal cost. I work for over 26 years and have seen where the operator get the message, it is the lost of production not the small fines or even if you double that fine it is the lost of production. At one time the head of Safety for U.S. Steel Mining Company said the the add 1 dollar a ton to their cost and over all was only costing 50 cent per ton so they were making 50 cents a ton off safety. I think the Agency need to come to the 21 century and change with the times. Stop trying to act like this is the 70's or the 80's. Bring the think up to today think of the operator out there.

Thank You

Shorty Wehr

God Bless the American Coal Miner

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