

to The Honorable Kathy A. Swrrett - Stated

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FEB 27 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I started work at Sunnyside Coal
Rehobeth, Ok. address New Lexington, O Rt 2 in
1948 when I came out of the Army.

Peabody took over around 1956 to 1958
and in 1960, they opened a new mine
across the state Road which was Route 13-37-93

It was called Peabody Sunnyside mine.
I worked there until 1991 and Retired.
They quit mining coal in 1990 and I was
on Teaming down beltlines Reclaiming the
ground etc. I had 40 years in the dust.

My wife Barbara worked in the main
office and insurance about nine years and
they terminated her and some young ones
remained. (No Benefits)

My wife has COPD very bad, she is on
Oxygen machine 24 hrs a day, Nebulizer 4
times a day, 5 puffs 18 mcg, Daliresp and a
lot of other medications. About 12 medications

I have COPD also but not as bad and have
7 meds I take.

I am the woman of the house anymore
plus her mother is 99 years old and help
her.

We need our insurance and miners
pension. without it we will be living on \$200.00
a month. If we have that, we will have to buy Insurance

we will probably lose our home and everything.

They probably bought all these companies to go Bankrupt and do away with the employees who made them so Big. They will have the coal leases for years to come they know what they are doing because they are conglomerates who don't give a dam about anyone other than the Dollar Bill - a corporate maneuver period.

el told the wife if we have to go on Welfare that's what we will have to do.
She is 81 yrs old and el on 83.

The wife can't hardly walk is ~~invalid~~ ~~invalid~~ so we to buy a stairlift - 2 to get her up the stairs, put in a Handicap shower and a Gas Generator so she can use her Oxygen machine and nebulizer at our expense - about \$20,000⁰⁰.

All the employees from our mine retired from Peabody coal (not) Patriot.

Thank you for taking the time
Local 1340

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The only reason el stayed at peabody was Benefits.
el had Operating Engineers card.

P.S.

When I retired I had Real Estate license and was going to a Realtor in Columbus, O to sell.

I found out I could only make \$500.00 a month or lose my insurance.

I could not afford to take a chance I gave up a lot of money at the time.

Local miners fear for health benefits in bankruptcy

By Hannah Sparling
Staff Writer

Norman Skinner never worked for Patriot Coal Corp. Neither did Dave Dilly or Bob Carpenter.

However, all three are scared they're going to lose their health care benefits because Patriot filed for bankruptcy in July.

Skinner, of Dresden, and Dilly and Carpenter, both of Coshocton, worked for Peabody Energy, which in 2007 moved some of its operations, including retirement benefits, to Patriot. Now, the three former miners — along with more than 10,000 others from Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana

and Illinois — are scared Patriot is using its bankruptcy to get out of paying their health benefits.

Patriot has not said it wants to stop paying the benefits, but United Mine Workers of America leaders think that is the company's intention with the bankruptcy.

UMWA has filed a lawsuit

against Peabody to try to stop that from happening.

In late January, Skinner, Carpenter and Dilly traveled to St. Louis to join a group of about 1,500 UMWA members to protest outside the courthouse where Patriot had its first bankruptcy hearing. Skinner and Carpenter are heading back to St. Louis for another hearing

Wednesday, and all three miners said they will keep making trips to protest until they're sure their benefits are secure.

"When I started in the mines, I was promised a lifetime health insurance," said Carpenter, who worked as a welder from 1956 to 1989. "I worked all

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Bankruptcy

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(those) years — I just can't believe what's going on today because I was promised. Peabody promised I would have health insurance as long as I live."

The situation started in 2005, when the company Arch Coal spun off its West Virginia operations into a company called Magnum Coal, according to UMWA.

In 2007, Peabody spun its eastern operations into Patriot Coal, then Patriot bought Magnum, including all of its retirement and health care liabilities.

Patriot filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy July 9, citing reduced demand for coal, weak international and U.S. economies, increased competition from natural gas and costly environmental regulations, according to a news release from the company's website.

Those "and other liabilities have severely constrained the Company's liquidity and finan-

COAL FACTS

- » Of 26 coal-producing states, Ohio ranked 10th in 2010, the most recent year for which data was available.
- » The Ohio coal industry directly employs about 3,000 people.
- » In 2010, Muskingum County mines produced 9,000 tons of coal in 2010. Coshocton County mines produced 265,000 tons. Perry County mines produced 2.9 million tons.

Source: Ohio Coal Association

— that it was Peabody and Arch's goal all along to use Patriot to shed their health care obligations.

"What they're trying to do is break our contract and do away with our health care and their contributions into our retirement... I never worked for Patriot, and all the people here in Ohio that are going to be affected by this never worked for Patriot," Skinner said.

A spokesman for Patri-

about the bankruptcy. Dilly estimates the bankruptcy decision could affect about 2,000 people, including former miners and their spouses, in Muskingum, Perry and Coshocton counties.

What makes the situation worse is many former miners have specific health problems because of their jobs, he said.

Dilly also is upset that although Patriot is bankrupt, Peabody is doing fine. In 2011, the company brought in record revenues of more than \$8 billion, according to its website.

"It's a corporate maneuver, basically, just to get rid of debt," Dilly said, adding that if Peabody and Patriot succeed, other companies might follow suit.

"Down the road, it's just like a domino effect," he said. "It's the corporate world — they could care less about the working class."

Skinner retired in September 1993 after 22 years as a coal mine mechanic. He spent much of his time working at the Simco surface mine. In

Carpenter started his mining career in 1956 for the Central Ohio Coal Company. From 1963 until 1989, he worked as a welder for Peabody in the Broken Arrow mine in West Lafayette then the Simco mine.

Dilly worked at the Simco mine from 1975 to 1992 and worked in numerous roles, including mechanic, welder, driller and heavy equipment operator.

It was coal miners who made Peabody the company it is today, Skinner said. They accepted lower wages throughout the years to ensure they would have health care, he said — and they want that promise kept.

Skinner, Carpenter and Dilly think the law is on their side, but they aren't confident about the outcome.

"Our chances of stopping them aren't real good," Skinner said. "The decision is made by one judge, and it depends on how close he follows the letter of the law, I suppose."

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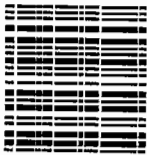


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The Honorable Kathy A. Swartz - 5 tabs

RE: Case no. 12-51502

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