



FEBRUARY 16, 2023

INDUSTRY NOTICE No. 3

TO: OPERATORS AND BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE BLACK LUNG BENEFITS ACT AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

SUBJECT: Notice to Responsible Operators and Beneficiaries Regarding Electronic Payment Option for Reimbursing the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund

BACKGROUND: The Black Lung Benefits Act and federal regulations require that benefits overpaid by the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC) due to a change in the status of a beneficiary's eligibility be repaid to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (BLDTF). Payments made after the death of a beneficiary are also to be returned to DCMWC. In addition, Responsible Operators are required to repay the BLDTF for interim benefits issued prior to the final award. Parties previously were directed to mail checks or money orders to DCMWC to pay these debts. Pay.gov is strictly a new electronic payment option that is now available in addition to previously offered payment options.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this notice is to advise Responsible Operators, insurance carriers, and beneficiaries of the new electronic payment option (Pay.gov) available for reimbursing the BLDTF.

In January 2023, the DCMWC, and the Department of Treasury, introduced an electronic payment option hosted by Treasury on Pay.gov. The new electronic payment option allows those owing a debt to submit reimbursement payments directly to DCMWC. There is no charge to use Pay.gov.

Pay.gov provides the ability to make an online payment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using a checking/savings account or debit/credit card through a secure portal. Pay.gov is a more convenient payment method that eliminates the lag time for mailing, the need for parties to mail physical checks or obtain money orders, and the possibility of payments being lost or misdirected in transit. Payment is immediately received and credited to the account within days. Payments mailed require 7-10 business days for processing. Parties may also create an account and establish automatic monthly payments for their convenience.

All previously accepted forms of payment (certified checks, checks, and money orders) will still be accepted if you are unable to utilize Pay.gov.

DCMWC has updated written debt notices to include instructions on how to access Pay.gov. While we encourage using Pay.gov, the program will continue to accept reimbursement via check and money order.

MICHAEL A. CHANCE
Director,
Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation

Pay.gov Links for each Electronic Payment Option

- DCMWC Claimant Overpayment Submission Form Part B:
<https://pay.gov/public/form/start/1069229343>
- DCMWC Claimant Overpayment Submission Form Part C:
<https://pay.gov/public/form/start/1069573550>
- DCMWC Responsible Operator Debt Reimbursement Submission Form Part C:
<https://pay.gov/public/form/start/1069574473>