



BRB No. 25-0060 BLA
Case No. 2021-BLA-05853

CHARLES T. THRUSH

Claimant-Respondent

v.

HOBET MINING INCORPORATED

and

ARCH RESOURCES INCORPORATED

Employer/Carrier-
Petitioners

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WORKERS'
COMPENSATION PROGRAMS, UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Party-in-Interest

NOT-PUBLISHED

DATE ISSUED: 08/11/2026

ORDER

On October 1, 2025, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, within whose jurisdiction this case arises, held in *Hobet Mining, Inc. v. Director, OWCP [Meredith]*, 156 F.4th 385 (4th Cir. 2025), *reh'g denied* (Mar. 16, 2026), that Arch Coal Company, Inc. (Arch)¹ the parent company of Hobet Mining Inc. (Hobet Mining), could not be held liable as a self-insurer for the payment of benefits arising out of a miner's employment with Arch's former subsidiaries, including Hobet Mining, when Patriot Coal

¹ Arch Coal, Inc. is also known as Arch Resources. Arch has merged with CONSOL Energy and is now known as Core Natural Resources. Employer's Motion to Dismiss at 1 n.2.

the subsequent owner and self-insurer of Hobet Mining at the time the claim was filed, went bankrupt. The parties agree that *Meredith* controls this case.

On October 14, 2025, Core Natural Resources (Employer) filed a motion to dismiss Hobet Mining as the responsible operator and Arch as the responsible insurer in this case pursuant to *Meredith*. On April 7, 2026, the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (the Director), filed a motion to hold this appeal in abeyance until *Meredith* is not subject to further appeal.

On July 22, 2026, the Benefits Review Board issued an Order denying the Director's motion to hold the appeal in this case in abeyance, granted Employer's motion to dismiss it as the responsible operator and Arch as the responsible insurer, and ordered the Director to inform the Board within seven days whether he elects to contest entitlement in this case. *See* 20 C.F.R. §§725.414(a)(3)(iii), 725.497(d). In a July 29, 2016 response to the Board's Order, the Director states he does not oppose Claimant's entitlement to benefits.

In view of the above, the Board dismisses this appeal and remands this case to the district director for the payment of benefits by the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund. *See* 26 U.S.C. §9501(d)(1)(B); 20 C.F.R. §725.1(c), (e).

SO ORDERED.

DANIEL T. GRESH
Administrative Appeals Judge

JONATHAN ROLFE, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Judge

GLENN E. ULMER
Administrative Appeals Judge