



BRB No. 24-0376 BLA
Case No. 2022-BLA-05800

LEONARD W. WORKMAN)

Claimant-Respondent)

v.)

HOBET MINING, INCORPORATED)

and)

Self-Insured Through ARCH RESOURCES)

Employer/Carrier-)
Petitioners)

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

Party-in-Interest)

NOT-PUBLISHED

DATE ISSUED: 06/24/2026

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 Mot. to Dismiss at 1 n.1; Employer's Opposition to the Director's Mot. at 1 n.1.

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 filed a motion to dismiss Hobet Mining and Arch (Employer) as the responsible operator in this case pursuant to *Meredith*. On April 8, 2026, the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (the Director), filed a motion to hold the appeal in this case in abeyance until *Meredith* is not subject to further appeal.

On June 11, 2026, the Benefits Review Board issued an Order denying the Director's motion to hold the appeal in this case in abeyance, granting the motion to dismiss Employer as the responsible operator, and ordering 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 June 17, 2026 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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Judge

JONATHAN ROLFE
Administrative Appeals Judge

GLENN E. ULMER
Administrative Appeals Judge