



BRB Nos. 15-0136 BLA, 15-0255 BLA and 15-0256 BLA
Case Nos. 2011-BLA-06194 and 2014-BLA-05301

SHARON BRYANT)	
(Widow of and on behalf of EZRA)	
BRYANT))	
)	
Claimant-Respondent)	
)	
v.)	
)	
HERITAGE COAL COMPANY)	DATE ISSUED: 12/23/2015
)	
Employer-Petitioner)	
)	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF WORKERS’)	
COMPENSATION PROGRAMS, UNITED)	
STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR)	
)	
Party-in-Interest)	ORDER

Counsel for employer, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, has filed a Notice of Bankruptcy and Withdrawal of Counsel. Counsel states that employer’s parent company, Patriot Coal Corporation, has filed for bankruptcy protection. Employer’s counsel further states that, because there are no assets available to pay black lung benefits or related expenses or charges, employer’s counsel will not participate in any further matter related to the present claims.

The Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (the Director), has filed a Motion to Remand for Payment of Benefits by the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The Director states that the Trust Fund accepts liability in the miner’s claim (BRB No. 15-0136 BLA, Case No. 2011-BLA-06194), in the survivor’s claim (BRB No. 15-0256 BLA, Case No. 2014-BLA-05301), and also accepts liability for the payment of attorney fees as ordered by the administrative law judge (BRB No. 15-0255 BLA, Case No. 2011-BLA-06194). The Director requests that these appeals be

dismissed and these cases remanded to the district director for payment of benefits and attorney fees by the Trust Fund. 20 C.F.R. §725.497(c),(d).

In view of the above, the Board grants the Director's motion, dismisses these appeals, and remands these cases to the district director for payment of benefits and fees by the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund.

BETTY JEAN HALL, Chief
Administrative Appeals Judge

RYAN GILLIGAN
Administrative Appeals Judge

JONATHAN ROLFE
Administrative Appeals Judge