

the ^{Charleston} Gazette

The State Newspaper

1001 Virginia St., East
Charleston, W. Va. 25301

Ken Ward Jr.
Staff Writer

(304) 348-1702
Fax: 348-1740
Kward@wvgazette.com

Jan. 22, 2003

Dave Lauriski
Assistant Secretary
Mine Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
1100 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, Va.

Fax to: (202) 693-9421

Dear Asst. Secretary Lauriski,

Please consider this a request made under the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, et seq.

As per my discussion with your public information office this morning, I am requesting access to documents concerning the explosion today at McElroy Coal Co. in Marshall County, MSHA ID 46-01437.

Please make available for my inspection and copying the following:

1. All inspection reports and citations for calendar years 2000, 2001 and 2002 for this operation.
2. All documents concerning plans and work for the ventilation shaft where the explosion occurred. This is meant to include plans submitted by the company, MSHA reviews of those plans and correspondence concerning those plans.
3. Any and all documents provided to CONSOL about the safety record of Central Cambria Drilling Co., as per the agreement on contractor safety between CONSOL and MSHA.
4. All inspection reports and citations for the calendar years 2000, 2001 and 2002 for Central Cambria Drilling Co.

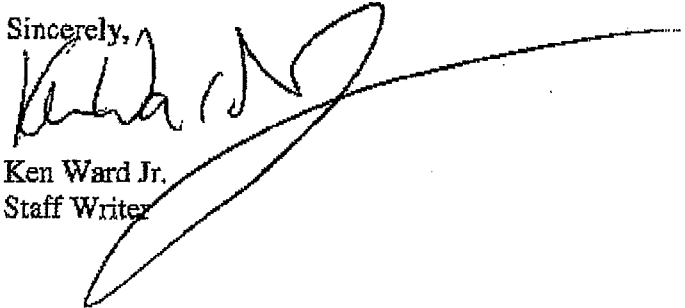
Please waive any copying and search fees associated with this request, as provided in 20 C.F.R. 70.41. The information that I have requested concerns the operations or activities of government, and the disclosure of this information is likely to contribute to public understanding of government activities in a significant manner. The public's interest in the publication of stories based on this information exceeds any commercial interest of mine in obtaining the records.

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2002

If you choose not to waive these fees, and the cost will exceed \$100, please contact me before you proceed. Please contact me if you have any questions about this request.

Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Ward Jr.', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Ken Ward Jr.
Staff Writer