MSHA TO UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE TO COLLECT $67 MILLION IN UNPAID FINES

During the House Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee meeting about the 2019 fiscal year budget, Secretary R. Alexander Acosta said the Department of Labor is undertaking an initiative to recover $67 million in unpaid health and safety fines that were issued by the MSHA over the past 10 years, *Safety + Health* reports.

"Americans across the country understand that if you have a fine, you have to pay. Anyone who has received a ticket knows that quite well," Acosta said, according to the magazine. "Beginning immediately, we are notifying individuals that have not paid their fines — and they need to pay their fines. We have legal methods at our disposal that we can implement if they have not paid those fines."

MSHA administrator David Zatezalo posted an op-ed piece to the MSHA website that was published by *The Intelligencer/Wheeling News Register*, saying that mine owners who fail to pay their fines could be forced to stop production, but would have to continue to pay miners. The Southeastern District only has one operator that has not paid their fines - approximately $95,000.

Link to the Mr. Zatezalo's Op-ed article - https://www.msha.gov/asst-sec-zatezalo-oped-%E2%80%93-collecting-mine-safety-fines

Source – Aggregates Manager