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04-19-13
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Re: Case # 12-51502

Dear Judge Surratt,

My name is Clark West, I live in Beaver Dam, Ky. I am a Peabody Coal Co. retiree. I worked in the underground mines of Peabody for 33 1/2 years before being laid-off and replaced by one of Peabody's non-union operations.

I was 21 years old when I began working for Peabody in 1970. I can't explain to you what it is like working underground and the hardships that a person faces to make a living for his family. I certainly didn't want this life for my children. Through my employment with Peabody, I was able to provide healthcare and what I considered a good living for a working man and his family. I also looked ahead to the time when I would not be able to work, and the promise of lifetime healthcare and pension benefits for my wife and me helped me continue on. I can't

say I liked Coal mining, as so many things it was the best I could do for my family and myself.

Now after 33½ yrs of employment with Peabody, I found myself laid-off with no job and not able to retire at age 54. I was able to get a job at the local high school as a janitor. I worked there for 2½ yrs. before my health made me quit.

I am now 63½ yrs old, after two total knee replacements, one shoulder operation and a peccemaker, I find myself on the verge of losing my healthcare and pension benefits. All of this is being done by a company that I never did work a day for. I don't know one thing about Detroit Coal, except, that about 6 years ago I got a letter from them stating that they were taking care of these benefits for me now. I called my local UMW office about this and was told don't worry you're getting your bills paid. I reminded them that my contract said my last employer was responsible

for my pension and health care.
They said don't worry. I told my
wife this is the beginning of the end
of our healthcare. I'm sorry to say
it looks like that is going to come
true.

Judge, I don't know anything
about bankruptcies or law. I do know
from experience of other companies
that its always the workers that are
left holding the empty bag. I know
you have laws and regulations that
rule in your decisions. I have also
been taught that justice could be
found in our court system. Is
there any justice for me and
the many thousands of families that
Peabody Coal Co has decided to
throw out like trash. We did not
wear our bodies out, and gave up our
health for Patriot Coal it was Peabody
Coal. ~~That's~~ Please, don't let them
do this to us and our families.

P.S. enclosed is
letter from Patriot Coal
about change from Peabody.

Yours Truly
Claude West



October 10, 2007

Dear Peabody Retiree,

Today, Peabody Energy's board of directors approved the spin-off of Patriot Coal Corporation, a totally new company that will be traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "PCX". Patriot's assets will consist of coal operations and reserves in Central Appalachia, Northern Appalachia and the Illinois Basin, and the company will be headquartered in Saint Louis, Missouri. As a retiree from the mines that are now part of our new company, I welcome you to the Patriot family, and I thank you for all of your years of hard work that have resulted in Patriot being what it is today.

I believe the creation of Patriot Coal will provide a better structure for our company to pursue effective long-term strategies and allow us to focus on our distinct business strengths and market opportunities. As a stand-alone coal company, we will be better able to compete with other companies operating in the eastern United States. I have enclosed for your use a copy of Patriot Coal's new Mission Statement, which will serve as the cornerstone of principles that will drive our actions as a new company.

You can be proud to be associated with a company that sold more than 24 million tons of coal in 2006. We also control 1.2 billion tons of proven and probable reserves, ensuring we can serve the robust needs of electricity generators and steel producers for decades to come.

I would expect that some of your immediate questions relate to your healthcare and retirement benefits. Enclosed is a note from Sara Wade, Patriot's Senior Vice President of Human Resources, which provides important information on your benefits.

This is a time of tremendous opportunity in the U.S. and global energy markets. I am extremely confident in our team of employees, both at our mining complexes and our offices, already in place to take us forward. You can expect to hear more from us in the coming weeks, as we move through the early stages of our launch as a publicly-traded company. Again, welcome to the Patriot family!

Sincerely,

Richard M. Whiting
President & Chief Executive Officer
Patriot Coal Corporation



October 10, 2007

Dear Patriot Coal Employee:

We hope you are as delighted as we are about our new organization. All of us fortunate enough to be with Patriot Coal have a lot to look forward to as we enter the global energy market as a stand-alone company. We have established our objectives, our mission statement and our business goals, all focused on helping us become a leader in our industry. As Rick Whiting stated in his message, our success will be driven by you – our skilled, talented and best-in-class employees. Your enthusiasm for your work and your commitment to excellence will make Patriot Coal an employer of choice.

As with the formation of any new company, there is a certain amount of change that is to be expected. First of all, I want to assure you that your years of service will remain intact as we move to the new company. The Patriot Coal vacation schedule will mirror that of Peabody*, and we expect our holidays to also be similar. Additionally, your pay rate and our pay dates will also remain the same as before.

With regard to your benefits, we've been working diligently over the past several months to keep change to a minimum. With very few exceptions, as an employee of Patriot Coal, **your benefits will remain the same as they are now**. The Benefit Fact Sheet on the next page specifically addresses in an easy-to-follow format each benefit plan and any changes we foresee. For example, since we are a new company, contact information such as telephone numbers for some of the benefit carriers may change. You also will be receiving new identification (ID) cards from benefit carriers.

Please take the time to read the Benefit Fact Sheet so that you can become familiar with what's changing and what's staying the same. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to get you the information you need. As more complete information becomes available, we will continue to communicate with you.

Working as a team, I am confident we have what it takes to become a true success story. Again, welcome to the new Patriot Coal!

Sincerely,

Sara Wade
Senior Vice President – Human Resources
Patriot Coal Corporation

* References to "Peabody" refer to Peabody Investments Corp. and its designated affiliates and subsidiaries.

PATRIOT COAL CORPORATION
MISSION STATEMENT

Patriot is a leading coal producer committed to operational and environmental excellence, customer satisfaction and long-term value creation.

Our core values are to:

- Make safety our highest priority and the cornerstone of the relationship with our employees
- Promote a high-performing organization by hiring and retaining the most qualified people and maximizing their opportunities through personal growth and development
- Engineer, build and manage our operations to enhance productivity and ensure a competitive cost structure
- Be a steward of the environment and a good neighbor in the communities where we operate
- Provide creative solutions for our customers through utilization of our diverse sourcing capabilities and innovative contracting techniques
- Honor our commitments and conduct our business with trust, respect and integrity toward customers, suppliers, employees and regulatory agencies
- Enhance shareholder value through sound decision-making and growth from development of existing resources and strategic acquisitions

Claude West
72 Miller St.
Beaver Dam, Ky. 42320



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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
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Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
Re: Case # 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Court House
111 S. 10th. St., 4th. Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102