

Ky. won't charge former mine inspector

by UPI

HAZARD, Ky. -- Kentucky officials have not sought charges against a state worker accused of falsifying mine inspection reports, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported Monday.

Despite determining that Betty Sue Whitaker allegedly endangered coal miners by only pretending to evaluate workers as a safety analyst in the Hazard district of the state's Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has not asked a prosecutor to review the case for possible criminal charges, the newspaper said.

The Courier-Journal said the cabinet also allowed Whitaker to resign last month without making her repay the thousands of dollars in salary it has decided she did not earn.

The state alleges that Whitaker rarely visited any of the mines she said she had inspected, claiming she forged company officials' signatures on her reports.

"The state's full of crap," Whitaker, 50, told the newspaper. "They're just full of crap. I did not falsify nothing."

There is "nothing further to be gained by seeking prosecution," cabinet spokesman Dick Brown said. "She (Whitaker) resigned, rather than face termination. That, in and of itself, is appropriate punishment."

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