

Report of Fatality

Roof Fall

September 6, 2024

Mingo Logan Coal, LLC

Mountaineer II Mine

Permit No. U00503197

Sharples, Logan County WV

Region II Office

830 Virginia Ave

Welch, WV 24801

Mike Pack, Inspector-at-Large

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Photos

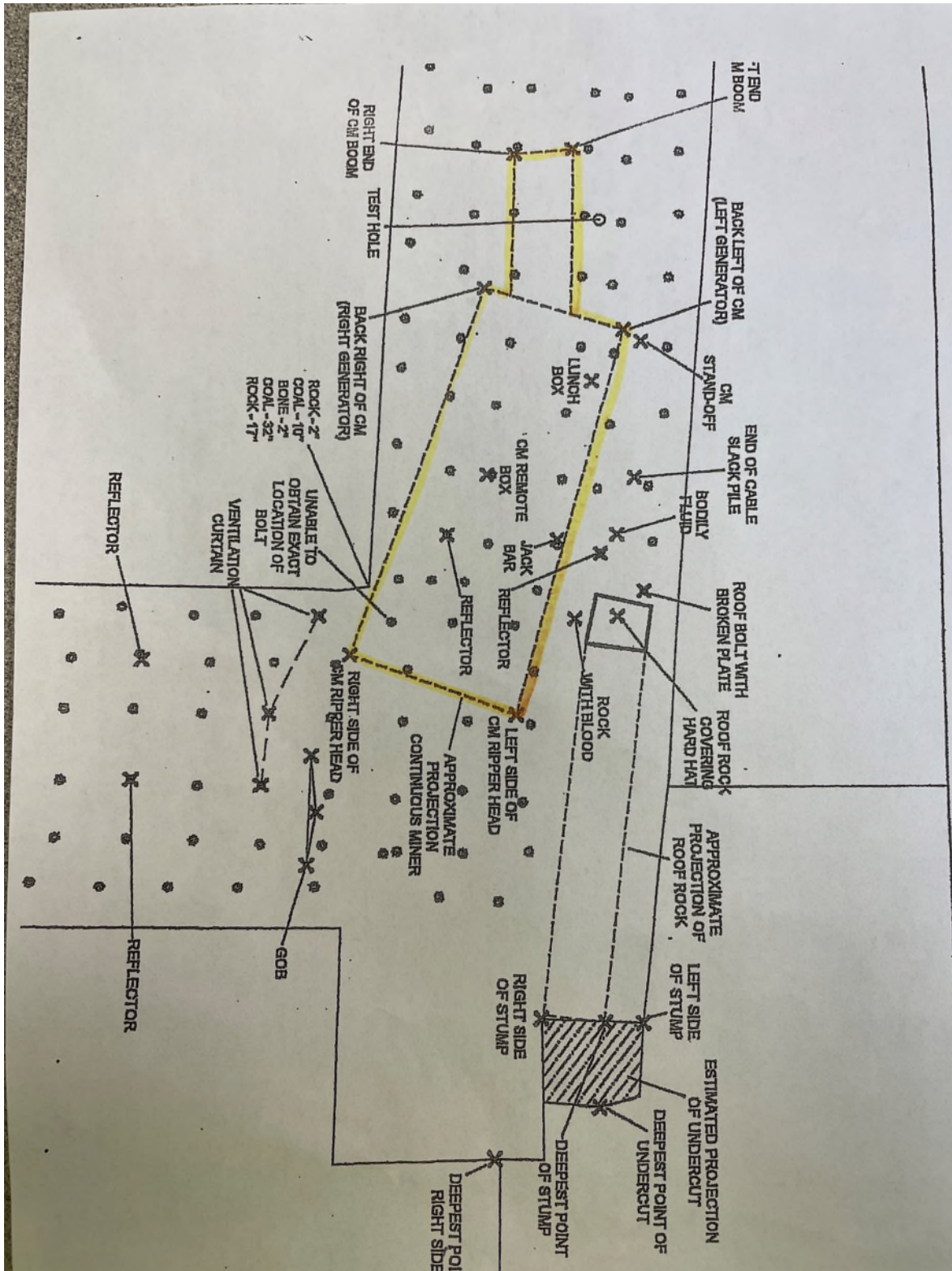


Diagram of Accident Site created by Josh Jackson (Engineer, Mingo Logan Coal) on September 9, 2024.



Inby the front of the continuous miner

View of fallen material from #7 Right Across the Face of #8 Heading as of September 7, 2024.



Scoop (Fairchild Scoop) lifting rock to retrieve Mr. Chapman's hard hat on September 7, 2024.

(The rock being lifted is the rock Mr. Chapman's right foot was trapped under.)

Hard
hat

Timeline

September 6, 2024

- 3:00 p.m. Gary Chapman, continuous miner operator, started his shift.
- 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Safety Meeting conducted in the conference room with the evening shift.
- 4:00 p.m. The I-5 Section Crew, including Mr. Chapman, arrived on the section.
- 5:50 p.m. Cameron Frye, Shuttle Car Operator, finds Mr. Chapman has been struck by material falling from the mine roof.
- 5:56 p.m. James Smith, Section Foreman, made a call to Michael Ball, Dispatcher, to inform him of accident.
- 5:58 p.m. Mr. Ball called 911 to get ambulance in route.
- 6:04 p.m. L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance service enroute to the mine.
- 6:09 p.m. Michael Ball, Dispatcher called for Healthnet.
- 6:24 p.m. Michael Lovins, Assistant Mine Foreman, called the Mine Emergency Incident Hotline.
- 6:31 p.m. Michael Pack, Inspector-At-Large, OMHST, was initially notified by phone from the Mine Emergency Incident Hotline.
- 6:40 p.m. Mr. Pack placed a verbal non-assessed control order on the I-5 section.
- 6:42 p.m. L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance service arrived at the mine.

- 6:43 p.m. L.E.A.S.A. personnel checked and prepared Mr. Chapman for transport.
- 6:47 p.m. L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance service departed the mine.
- 7:11 p.m. L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance service arrived at Logan Regional Medical Center.
- 7:19 p.m. Dr. Hayes, attending physician, pronounced Mr. Chapman deceased.

General Information

This report is based on an investigation conducted in accordance with Chapter 22A, Article 1, Section 14 of the West Virginia Code.

Mingo Logan Coal, LLC Mountaineer II Mine Permit No. U00503197 is located near Sharples, West Virginia. The underground mine has an annual production year to date (as of September 6, 2024) of 752,791 clean tons.

This underground mine operates three (3) shifts, using room and pillaring mining methods to produce coal from the Alma and #2 Gas Seams, with three hundred and seventy-seven (377) employees, employed by Mingo Logan Coal, LLC. On September 6, 2024, at approximately 5:50 p.m., Gary Chapman, 33 years of age, employed by Mingo Logan Coal, LLC, received fatal injuries from falling material while working under an unsupported section of mine roof.

On September 6, 2024, at 6:24 p.m., Michael Lovins, the Assistant Mine Foreman for Mountaineer II Mine, notified the Mine Emergency Incident Hotline.

At approximately 6:31 p.m., Michael Pack, Inspector-at-Large of the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, Region 2 Welch Office, was notified of the accident by phone followed by email at 6:33 p.m. from the Mine Emergency Incident Hotline. Mr. Pack contacted Pat Calloway, Evening Shift Shop Foreman, by phone at 6:40 p.m., in reference to the incident. Mr. Pack issued a Verbal Non-Assessed Control Order on the I-5 Section at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Pack immediately notified multiple Region 2 Underground Inspectors to proceed to the mine right away. A joint investigation with the Mine Safety and Health Administration and Mingo Logan Coal, LLC Mountaineer II Mine began upon arrival.

Formal interviews were conducted on September 10, 2024, at the Logan Mine Safety and Health Administration Office. The following individuals voluntarily testified:

Mark Hall – Roof Bolter

Mark Hileman – Shuttle Car Operator on that day (Assigned title is General Laborer)

Cameron Frye – Shuttle Car Operator

Michah Mahon – Continuous Miner Operator

Jordan Dent – Roof Bolter

James Smith – Section Foreman on that day (Assigned title is Outby Foreman)

Jason Murphy – Roof Bolter

Gregory Williams – Section Foreman

Todd Lovins – Assistant Mine Foreman (Evening Shift)

Jerry Mann – Safety Supervisor

Accident Description

On September 6, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., a safety meeting was conducted prior to employees going underground. Mr. Chapman started his shift as a continuous miner operator. Mr. Chapman was operating a Joy 14-15 off-standard continuous miner on the I-5 section at crosscut 12 in the #7 right break. Mr. Chapman cut the left side stump out across the face of #8 heading, continuing approximately eight feet into the left side of #8 right break. Mr. Chapman cut approximately thirteen feet into the right side of #8 right break.

Cameron Frye, Shuttle Car operator, arrived at the continuous miner to obtain a load of coal. Mr. Frye did not observe Mr. Chapman at the continuous miner. Mr. Frye turned his shuttle car off and heard Mr. Chapman gasp. Mr. Frye then saw Mr. Chapman's stripes on his clothing. Mr. Chapman was lying on the mine floor, to the left front area of the miner (see photo diagram on page 1 for clarification). Mr. Frye approached Mr. Chapman and realized Mr. Chapman had two smaller rocks on his upper body. Mr. Frye removed the two small rocks off Mr. Chapman's upper body, and then noticed a larger rock, approximately 47 inches long by 44 inches wide by 6 inches thick, on Mr. Chapman's right foot. Mr. Chapman's hard hat was visible under the larger rock, with the cap light still on. Mr. Frye flagged Mark Hileman, Outby General Laborer, and advised him to get help due to Mr. Chapman's serious injuries.

Mr. Hileman notified other miners (Michah Mahon, Mark Hall and Jordan Dent) that Mr. Chapman was seriously injured, and he continued to the accident site. Mr. Hileman checked Mr. Chapman for a pulse two different times, but one could not be detected. When Mr. Dent arrived at the scene, he tried lifting the rock off Mr. Chapman's right leg but could not. Mr. Hileman told Mr. Frye to get a bar to lift the rock off Mr. Chapman's right leg. Mr. Hileman and Mr. Frye used the bar to lift the rock and Mr. Hileman pulled Mr. Chapman's right leg from beneath the rock.

Mr. Mahon informed Greg Williams, Section Foremen, of the accident. Mr. Williams went to the accident scene. When Mr. Williams arrived at the accident scene, Mr. Chapman had already been removed from beneath the rock. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Dent if Mr. Chapman had a pulse, and Mr. Dent replied, "yes, a faint pulse." Mr. Williams advised Mr. Dent to start CPR on Mr. Chapman. Mr. Williams advised Mr. Mahon to get the emergency ride and the EMT box. When Mr. Mahon arrived at the accident scene, Mr. Dent was still performing CPR on Mr. Chapman. Mr. Chapman was then placed on a stretcher where the AED was attached to him. The AED commanded CPR to be continued. Mr. Dent continued CPR while Mr. Mahon applied oxygen to Mr. Chapman. Mr. Chapman was then placed on the emergency ride and taken to the end of the track, where a track mounted personnel carrier was waiting to transport Mr. Chapman to the elevator. Mr. Mahon and Mike Decker, an EMT, performed CPR on Mr. Chapman while enroute to the elevator. They continued lifesaving procedures until arriving on the surface where L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance service personnel took control of Mr. Chapman.

L.E.A.S.A. Ambulance Paramedic, Miranda Stapleton, and Registered Nurse, Ian Carrol, transported the victim to Logan Regional Medical Center. Upon arrival at 7:11 p.m. to Logan Regional Medical Center, the victim was attended to by Dr. Hayes, Logan Regional Medical Center Emergency Room Physician. At 7:19 p.m. on September 6, 2024, Dr. Hayes pronounced Mr. Chapman deceased.

Findings of Fact

1. Mr. Chapman was a certified underground coal miner. Certificate No. 3 17960, issued May 6, 2011.
2. Mr. Chapman received experienced miner training on March 5 and 6, 2024.
3. Mr. Chapman received task training on the Joy 14-15 Miner on August 19, 2024.
4. Mr. Chapman was an employee of Mingo Logan Coal, LLC.
5. Mr. Chapman had twenty-six (26) weeks experience at this permitted mine.
6. Mr. Chapman was a continuous miner operator at Mingo Logan Coal, LLC for three weeks.
7. Mr. Chapman started his shift at 3 p.m. on September 6, 2024.

8. Mr. Chapman attended a safety meeting between 3:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.
9. Mr. Chapman arrived on the I-5 section at approximately 4:00 p.m.
10. Mr. Chapman did not report any issues on his pre-operational examination.
11. Formal interviews revealed that Mr. Chapman had worked on this section on previous dates.
12. The Foreman's Pre-Shift Exam Record Book showed no hazardous conditions.
13. Cameron Frye found Mr. Chapman unresponsive on the mine floor next to the continuous miner, with his right foot under a large rock.
14. There were no witnesses to the accident.
15. Mr. Chapman's hard hat, mining light and safety glasses were 5 feet in by the next to the last full row of permanent roof support beneath the 47 inches by 44 inches by 6 inches rock.
16. Mr. Chapman received fatal injuries when a large section of rock fell from the roof of the #8 Heading, striking Mr. Chapman and knocking him to the mine floor.
17. Mr. Chapman received training on the Roof Control Plan by Eric Ferrell on March 5, 2024.

Conclusion

Mr. Chapman received fatal injuries when he traveled in by the last full row of permanent roof support and was struck by falling roof material.

Enforcement Action

A non-assessed control order was issued to Mingo Logan Coal, LLC in accordance with Chapter 22A, Article 2, Section 68 of the West Virginia Code.

One (1) Notice of Violation was issued during this investigation.

Company Revision



Jerry Mann
Safety Manager
(304) 369-7579
jmann@archrsc.com

October 24, 2024

Mr. Mike Pack
WVOMHST
830 Virginia Avenue
Welch, WV 24801

RE: Mountaineer II Mine Training Plan Addendum
Mountaineer II Mine, State ID NO. U-5031-97 & MSHA ID NO. 46-09029

Dear Mr. Pack,

Mingo Logan is proposing a revision to the Training Plan for the Mountaineer II Mine, that will include the addendum in the Comprehensive Mine Safety Plan. The purpose of the revision is to implement quarterly training for the following topic:

-No travel inby unsupported areas

A miner's representative has been notified and a copy of this letter has been posted on the mine bulletin board. Your attention and approval are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jerry Mann

Recommendations

The following will be included in the Mountaineer II Mine Comprehensive Mine Safety Program:

“In accordance with Title 56 Series 8 Section 8.4 of the West Virginia Code of State Rules, Mingo Logan Coal, LLC shall update and make modifications to the Comprehensive Mine Safety Program. Mingo Logan Coal, LLC has submitted a plan of prevention and reoccurrence and updated their Comprehensive Mine Safety Program.”

Acknowledgement

The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training, acknowledges the cooperation of employees, and management, of Mingo Logan Coal, LLC – Mountaineer II Mine and the Mine Safety and Health Administration, during this investigation. We would like to thank the following persons for their cooperation during this investigation:

Mingo Logan Coal, LLC:

Jon Hensley – Mine Manager

Josh Jackson - Engineer

Jerry Mann – Safety Supervisor

Jordan Bryant - Engineer

David Porter - Superintendent

Chris Adkins - Surveyor

Ross Hoover - Process Improvement

Josh Belcher - Surveyor

Garrett Barton – General Mine Manager

Steve Bailey – Asst. Mine Foreman

Ricky Frankum - Fire boss

Charlie Maynard – Chief Electrician

Kyle Brown – General Mine Foreman

Mark Pauley - Electrician

Mike Aleshire - Electrician

Clifford Adkins – General Laborer

Rick Sexton - Surveyor

Jeff Epperhart – Tracking Maintenance

Mine Safety and Health Administration employees:

Paul Milum

Daniel Morgan

Yancy Rhode

Craig Plumley

Dave Thacker

Darryl Manard

Greg Ward

Mark Muncy

Richard Cregger

Mine Information

Company Mingo Logan Coal, LLC

Mine Name Mountaineer II Mine

WV Permit U00503197

Address PO Box E, Sharples, WV 25813

County Logan

Date Permit Issued September 23, 2004 Working Status Active

Location Sharples, WV

Union _____ Non-Union X

Daily Production 11,500 Tons Annual Production To Date 752,791 Tons

Total Employees 377 Number of Shifts 3

Name of Coal Bed No. 2 Gas

Seam Thickness 44 inches

Accident Incident Rate .32 Lost Time Accidents 1

Type of Haulage Equipment

WV OMHST Inspector Eddie Collins

Date of Last Inspection June 26, 2024

Notified by WVEMD Time of Notification 6:31p.m.

CMSP – Anniversary Date January 31, 2025

CMSP – Contact Person Jerry Mann

Victim Information

Name of Victim Gary A. Chapman

Age of Victim 33

Total Mining Experience 13 Years

Experience at This Mine 26 Weeks

Average Number of Days Worked Per Week 5

Average Number of Hours Worked Per Week 45

Length of Shifts at Mine 9 hrs

Travel Time To/From Work 1.25 hrs

Occupation at Time of Accident Continuous Miner Operator

Regular Occupation Continuous Miner Operator

Miner's Certification 3-17690

Other Certifications WV Electrician 3-2424

Date of Accident 6 Day of September 2024

At 5:50 O'clock p.m.

Location of Accident I-5 Section