

West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training

August 15, 2011

**Report of Investigation
Underground Coal Mine Fatality
Roof Fall**

**Mingo Logan Coal Company
Mountaineer II
U-5031-97**

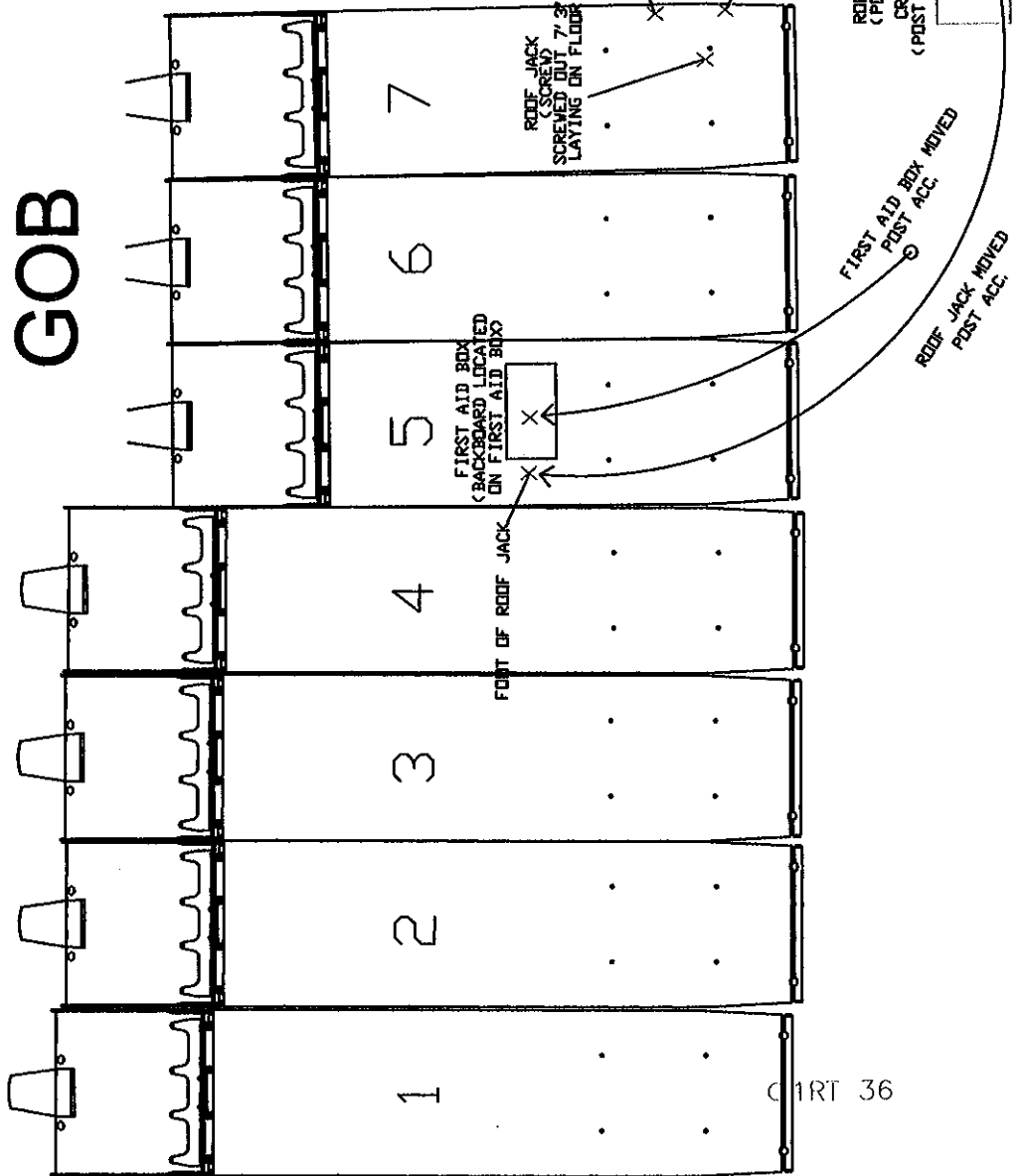
**Region III
137 Peach Court, Suite 2
Danville, WV 25053
John Kinder, Inspector-at-Large**

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GOB

SHIELD #	DISTANCE FROM SHIELD TIP TO FACE	HEIGHT FROM FLOOR TO ROOF
#7	8' 5"	7' 4"
#6	8' 7"	7' 4"
#5	8' 9"	7' 5"
#4	8' 6"	7' 6"
#3	8' 6"	8'
#2	N/A	7' 3"
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VISIBLE CRIBS BUILT - DID NOT GET PRECISE MEASUREMENTS DUE TO SAFETY

COAL FACE

1 RIGHT HEADGATE ACCIDENT
AUGUST 15, 2011

SCALE 1" = 6'

C1RT 36

CRIBS
(POST ACC.)

General Information

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

Mingo Logan Coal Company was permitted to operate the Mountaineer II mine on September 23, 2004. The mine is located in Sharples, Logan County, West Virginia on Rt. 17. The mine has four (4) continuous miner sections mining in the Alma and Cedar Grove seams and one long wall section mining the Alma seam only. The Cedar Grove and Alma seams were joined by an internal slope. The mining height is approximately 7 to 8 feet on the 1st right long wall section in the Alma seam. Employees enter the mine by elevator, and supplies are transported down the slope.

The mine employs three hundred and five (305) underground employees not including eighty-five (85) employees of Mac Mine Service who perform outby labor. The mine operates the miner section six (6) days per week and the long wall section seven (7) days per week. Miner crews work a straight Monday through Saturday week rotating every eight (8) weeks, and the long wall crews operates a three (3) day on three (3) off schedule overlapping the fourth day, rotating every (8) weeks. During the long wall moves, the long wall crews work a straight seven (7) day week beginning 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. for midnight shift, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for day shift, and 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for evening shift.

Mr. Charles M. Hall was forty-six (46) years of age and had five (5) years and ten (10) months of total mining experience with four (4) years and ten (10) months at this mine.

Mr. Hall, an employee of Mingo Logan Coal Company, was fatally injured in an accident which occurred at approximately 5:50 a.m. on August 15, 2011. Mr. Hall was working as a crib setter on the 1st right long wall recovery section when he was struck with a section of falling mine roof.

The Logan County 911 Emergency Service Authority was notified of the accident at 5:57 a.m., and the Mine and Industrial Accident Emergency Operations Center was notified of the accident at 6:27 a.m. by Ralph Evans, dispatcher for Mingo Logan Coal Company. The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training was notified of the accident by the Mine and Industrial Accident Emergency Operations Center at 6:30 a.m. A joint investigation with the Mine Safety and Health Administration and mine management began immediately.

Description

On August 15, 2011, eleven (11) employees of the Mountaineer II mine entered the elevator at approximately 11:00 p.m. and traveled to the 1st right long wall recovery section. Before arriving at the recovery area, Jeff Golden, long wall foreman, stopped the man trip and held a

safety meeting with the crew concerning safe procedures in long wall shield recovery. Mr. Golden told the crew that this would be the last night of pulling shields and instructed everyone to work safely and to watch out for each other.

After arriving on the long wall section, the men stopped at the shield load pad for a snack before proceeding to work. Eighteen (18) shields remained to be recovered; number 19 shield was on face waiting to be taken to the load pad. Shield numbers 18, 17, 16, 15 and 14 were recovered with only minor delays due to power problems. Shield number 13 experienced problems with holding the gob. The removal of shield number 11 resulted in the roof breaking as quick as the shield dropped loose from the roof. Gob rock slid or knocked the cribs from shield number 11 down to shield number 9. The top was trying to fall from the gob crack, and there was a second crack starting from the shield tip. Number 8 shield was pulled, and jacks were set.

Mr. Hall, crib setter, was building a gob crib as cribs were being passed to him by Byron Washington, Tim Casto, John Hatfield, Jason Fuller and Kenny Evans. Mr. Hall went to put a half header over the crib when the mine roof collapsed at approximately 5:50 a.m. A section of mine roof measuring 3 inches to 13.5 inches thick, 40 inches wide, and 6 feet long fell suddenly, striking Mr. Hall. Testimony of witnesses revealed that Mr. Hall was struck by the rock pinning him to the mine floor.

Immediately Tim Casto, Byron Washington, John Hatfield, Jason Fuller, Clayton Hicks, Brian Simpkins, Chris Cook, Todd Lester, Kenny Evans, and Jeff Golden provided aid to Mr. Hall by attempting to lift the rock by the use of a lifting jack and pry bars. Their efforts were unsuccessful. Then a 995 volt powered mule, used for the purpose of retrieving the long wall shields was brought to the scene by Charles Ferguson, mule operator. A chain was wrapped around the rock, and the chain was attached to the boom of the mule. The rock was raised, and first-aid was administered by Chris Cook and Kenny Evans, emergency medical technicians, and Todd Lester. Mr. Lester checked for breathing and a pulse, and neither was detected. Mr. Lester and Mr. Evans began CPR, and others arrived with a stretcher and first aid supplies. Mr. Hall was placed on the stretcher and loaded on the man trip to be taken to the surface. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was placed on Mr. Hall and registered "no shock advised, continue CPR." Mr. Hall arrived on the surface at 6:17 a.m., and the Logan Emergency Ambulance Service Authority took over administering CPR and transported Mr. Hall to Logan Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 7:21 a.m. by Dr. Vezzek.

Conclusion

Mr. Charles M. Hall was fatally injured when he was struck by a section of rock that fell from the mine roof.

Findings of Fact

- 1) Charles M. Hall was working as a crib builder on the 1st right long wall recovery section at number 7 shield.
- 2) Charles M. Hall was in the process of finishing a gob crib.
- 3) The mining height in the accident area was 7 feet. The overall height in the area prior to the accident was approximately 7 feet.
- 4) The mine roof out from shield number 7 showed multiple cracks running parallel with the face line. The accident was caused by the roof collapsing before all temporary supports were installed.

Enforcement Action

The following enforcement actions were taken as a result of the investigation:

One (1) violation was issued during the investigation. This violation is a violation of a health and safety statute, is of a serious nature, and involved a fatality.

Two (2) Individual Personal Assessments (IPA) were issued during the investigation.

A non-assessed control order was issued in accordance with Title 36, Series 19, Section 7.1 of the West Virginia Mining laws in order to preserve the scene of the accident and to complete an investigation.

(Violation 117647) Chapter 22A, Article 2, Section 25a: The approved roof control plan dated April 25, 2011 was not complied with in that a fatal injury occurred on the first right long wall section near shield number 7 on August 15, 2011, approximately 5:50 a.m. due to a fall of the mine roof. This violation is a violation of a health and safety statute, is of a serious nature, and involved a fatality. Based upon evidence seen and testimony given, adequate roof support by wooden cribs was not provided for shield number 8 through shield number 10. The approved roof control plan, page 33, drawing number 10, shows roof support by wooden cribs, two in the place of each shield removed. Based upon evidence seen, two cribs were not provided for shield numbers 8, 9, and 10 in the location approved in the roof control plan. The mine roof fell approximately 18 feet long and 10 feet wide where the cribs should have been built.

Acknowledgement

The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the employees and management of Mingo Logan Coal Company, Mountaineer II mine and the Mine Safety and Health Administration during this investigation.

Appendix

- Mine Information
- Victim Information

MINE INFORMATION

COMPANY Mingo Logan Coal Company

MINE NAME Mountaineer II

WV PERMIT U-50310-97 MSHA PERMIT NUMBER 46-09029

ADDRESS P. O. Box E, Sharples, WV 25183

COUNTY Logan PHONE NUMBER 304-369-7500

DATE PERMIT ISSUED September 23, 2004

WORKING STATUS Active

LOCATION Route 17 Mountaineer Laurel Drive, Sharples, WV

UNION _____ NON-UNION X

DAILY PRODUCTION 33,000 tons ANNUAL PRODUCTION TO DATE 3.95 million tons

TOTAL EMPLOYEES 305

NUMBER OF SHIFTS 3

COAL SEAM NAMES(S) AND THICKNESSES Alma (60 inches) & Cedar Grove (40 inches)

ACCIDENT INCIDENT RATE 1.16 LOST TIME ACCIDENTS 1

TYPE OF HAULAGE Belts

WVOMHST INSPECTOR Wayne Pauley & Timmy Duffey

DATE OF LAST INSPECTION August 9, 2011

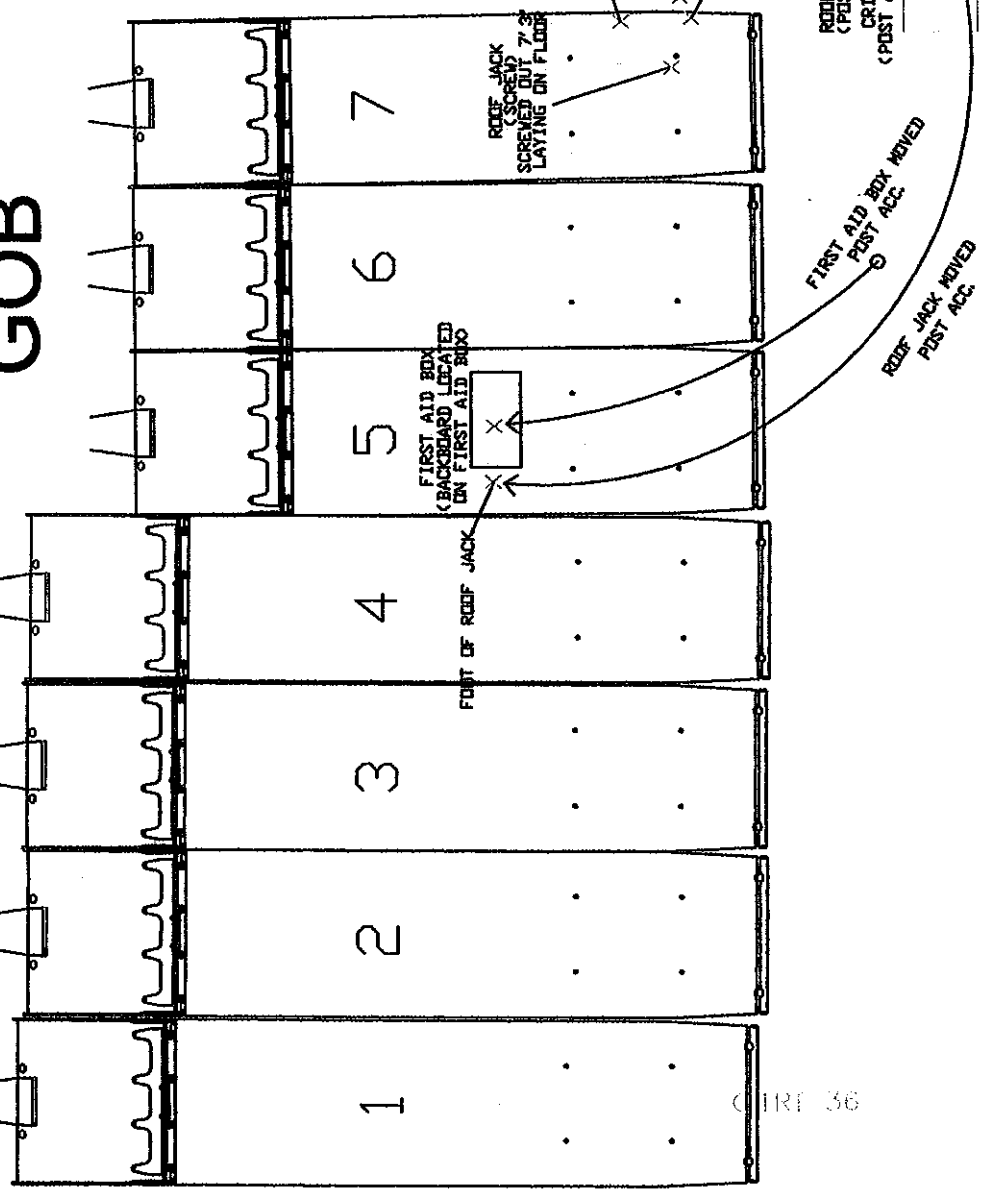
NOTIFIED BY Ralph Evans, dispatcher NOTIFICATION TIME 6:27 a.m.

CMSP ANNIVERSARY DATE October 1, 2011

CMSP CONTACT PERSON Willie E. Barker

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GOB



CRIB

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APPROXIMATELY 20 CRIB BLOCKS VISIBLE UNDER GOB

ROCK WHICH STRUCK VICTIM 3'-13" THICK 40" WIDE ~ 6' LONG ROCK EXTEND 18" UNDER NO. 7 SHIELD

B. F.

SLATE BAR JACK BAR

HARD MAT WITH LIGHT

ROOF JACK (POST ACC.)

CRIBS (POST ACC.)

FIRST AID BOX MOVED (POST ACC.)

ROOF JACK MOVED (POST ACC.)

COAL FACE

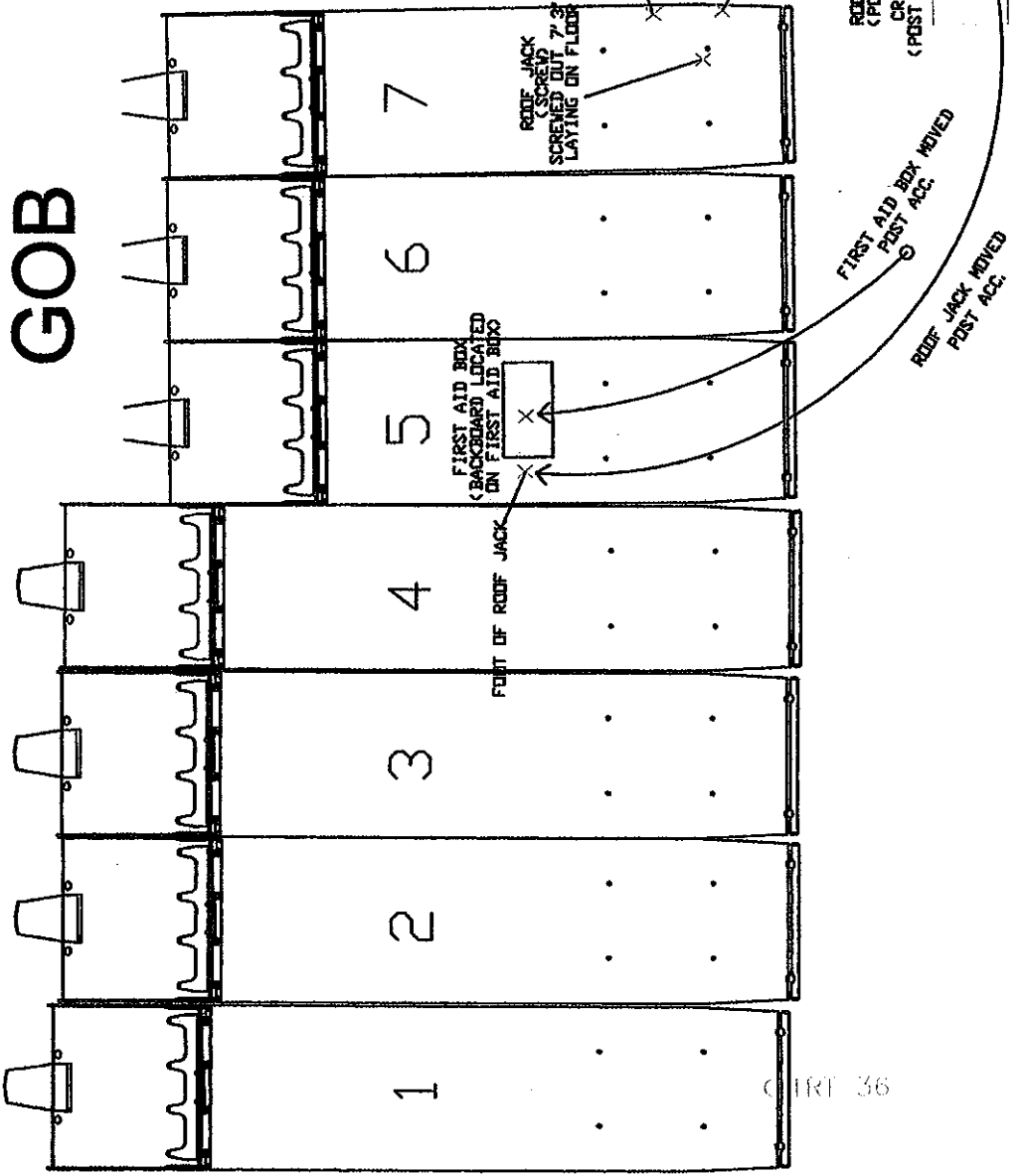
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