

FATAL ACCIDENTS

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: William L. Sparr
Address: R.D. #3, Meyersdale, PA 15552
Name of Mine: Mine Drainage Permit No. 3366BSM107- MP No. 20-82
Name of Company: River Hill Coal Co., Inc.
Date of Accident: February 15, 1982 - Elk Lick Twp., Somerset Co.

Joel Q. Pontorero
Surface Mine Conservation Inspector Ebensburg District Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

William Sparr, oiler, was found lying at the right front corner of the dragline, on the ground, by the dragline operator, Clifford Romesburg, when the machine was shut down for lunch. Mr. Romesburg stated that he had not seen the victim since approximately 11:50 a.m. The victim suffered injuries to the left ribcage, and internal injuries to the neck, liver and spleen, according to the Coroner. The victim was dead when he was found by the operator.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Apparently the victim had either jumped or fallen off of the machine and was pinned between the tracks and counterweight of the dragline. The area where the victim was found would have been a blind spot for the operator at the time of the accident. There was no reason for the victim to have been leaving the machine at the time of the accident.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

The dragline operator should be aware of the location of the oiler at all times and the oiler should provide the operator with this information.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

If the victim jumped off the machine without informing the operator, then the responsibility lies with the victim. If he in fact fell off the machine while it was in motion to the blind area, then no person could be held responsible. Unfortunately, it is not known whether the victim fell or jumped from the machine.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: David K. Showman
Address: 215 South 5th Street, Youngwood, PA
Name of Mine: Leighty Strip
Name of Company: Marsolino Coal & Coke Co., Inc.
Date of Accident: June 2, 1982

John W. Marryott
Surface Mine Conservation Inspector Greensburg District Office

On June 2, 1982, at approximately 10:30a.m., an oiler, 27 years of age, with less than one week's service at the Leighty Strip mine located in White Township in Fayette County of Marsolino Coal and Coke Co., Inc. was fatally injured. Electrocuted as drill rig came in contact with high voltage power line. Total years experience at this occupation unknown.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

Drill rig was parked immediately adjacent to a high voltage power line for the purpose of exploratory drilling. Leveling jacks were placed down, drill was leveled and drill mast hoisted to a vertical position. Contact was with power line and completed electrical circuit from top of drill mast to bottom of drill jacks. Upon command, victim attempted to lock in the mast and received 7,500 volts of electricity resulting in his death.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Cause of accident was drill rig crew's failure to notice the danger represented by the power line.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Prohibit future drilling within 75 feet of power lines.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

Responsibility for this accident lies with drill rig crew because the coal operator's instructions were to drill holes along the haulage road. No instructions were given which specifically stated that a hole would have to be drilled under the power line.