

COAL NONFATAL

81-0226

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST ACCIDENT

L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 13, 1981

by

Lee H. Smith
Coal Mine Inspector

Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
Drawer J, 575 East First South, Price, Utah 84501
Jensen L. Bishop, Subdistrict Manager

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DENVER, CO 80225

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(UNDERGROUND COAL MINE)

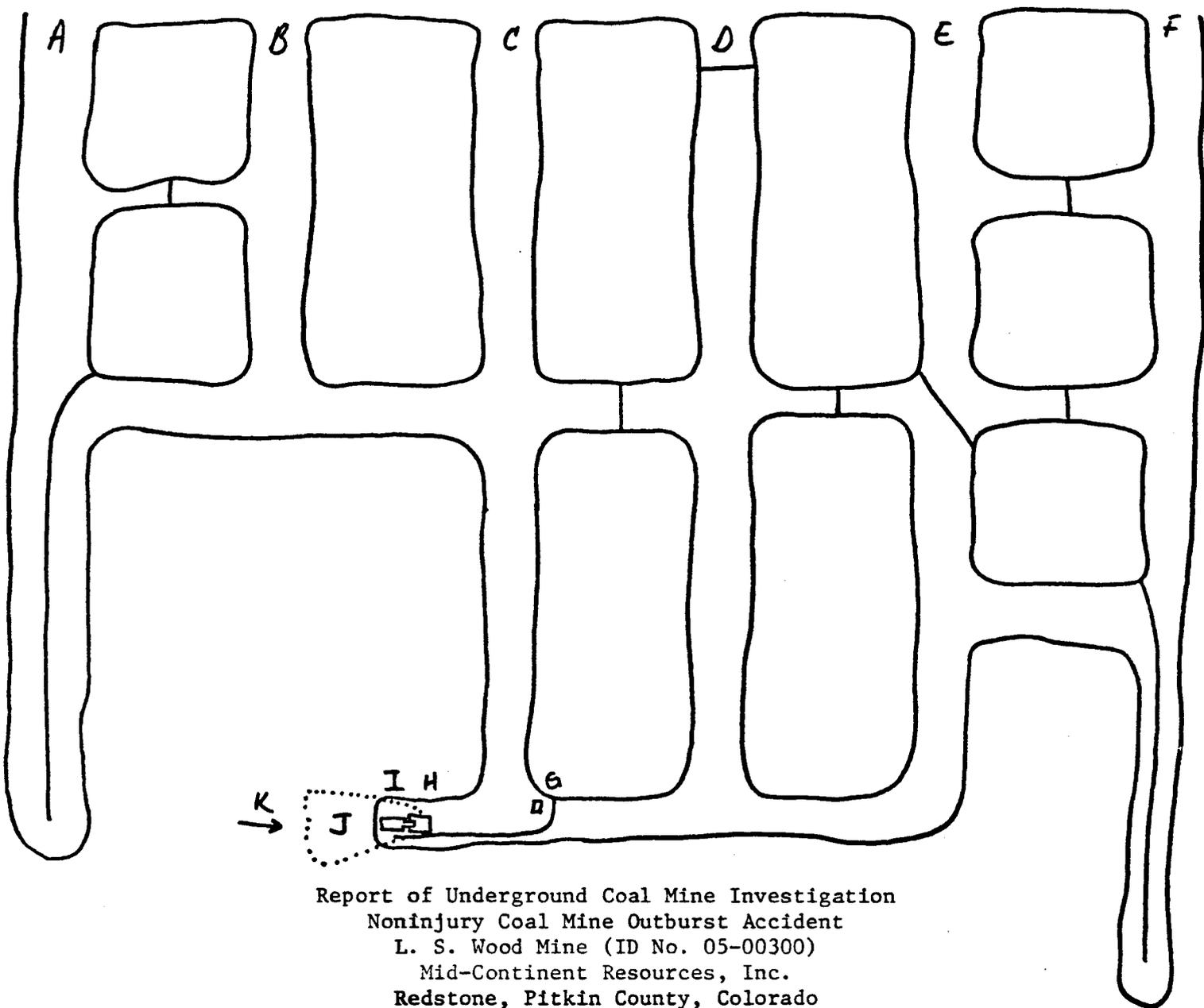
NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST ACCIDENT

L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)
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Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 13, 1981

- Legend:
- A - No. 6 Slope
 - B - No. 5 Slope
 - C - No. 4 Slope
 - D - No. 3 Slope
 - E - No. 2 Slope
 - F - No. 1 Slope Return Air Course
 - G - Remote Control (Multiplexer)
 - H - Shuttle Car
 - I - Continuous Mining Machine
 - J - Area of Coal Outburst
 - K - Direction of Coal Outburst

(Not drawn to scale)



Report of Underground Coal Mine Investigation
 Noninjury Coal Mine Outburst Accident
 L. S. Wood Mine (ID No. 05-00300)
 Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.
 Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado
 April 13, 1981



Authority—

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 95-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164.

SECTION A - IDENTIFICATION DATA

1. Title of investigation: Noninjury Coal Mine Outburst Accident

2. Date MESA investigation started: April 13, 1981

3. Report release date: May 15, 1981

4. Mine: L. S. Wood

5. Mine ID number: 05-00300

6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.

7. Town, County, State: Redstone, Pitkin Co, CO

8. Author(s): Lee H. Smith

SECTION B - MINE INFORMATION

9. Daily production: 1,345 Tons

10. Surface employment: 6

11. Underground employment: 101

12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin "B"

13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 Inches

SECTION D - ORIGINAL SOURCE

18 Mine Safety and Health Administration
 Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 9
 Address: Drawer J, Price, UT 84501

SECTION C - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FREQUENCY RATES (HISTORICAL)

14. Industry: 14.36

15. This operation: 17.76

16. Training program approved: Yes

17. Mine Profile Rating: 741

SECTION E - ABSTRACT

On Monday, April 13, 1981, about 2:10 p.m., an outburst of coal occurred in the crosscut (approx. 200 feet in by survey station No. 3-127) being driven from the No. 4 slope to the No. 5 slope in the 001-0 slopes section. No personal injury was suffered. The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

SECTION F - MINE PERSONNEL

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	<u>John A. Reeves, Sr.</u>	<u>P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>
20. Superintendent:	<u>Tom Scott</u>	<u>P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>
21. Safety Director:	<u>Ron Henderson</u>	<u>P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>
22. Principle officer—H&S:	<u>Tom Scott</u>	<u>P. O. Box 158, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>
23. Labor Organization:	<u>Redstone Workers Assoc.</u>	<u>0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	<u>Richard Lane</u>	<u>0526 Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623</u>

Commentary

On Monday, April 13, 1981, about 7:02 a.m., the (001-0) slopes section crew under the supervision of Dennis Bouwens, section foreman, entered the mine and traveled to their working area. Normal mining activities were begun and continued until 1:30 p.m. At that time, the mining crew had completed cleaning up a smaller outburst of coal that had impacted against the mining machine cutter head on April 10, 1981. Progressing into the crosscut, Ed Kemp, using the multiplexer (remote control), positioned the machine and began cutting coal on the off brattice side, squaring up the face. Ray Arellano said as soon as the cut was made, "it hit real hard on the high side three times and then settled down." Kemp backed the machine out and moved to the brattice side. After this was done Kemp said, "it started to scale off the roof and we shut off the machine. It bounced twice and we took off running." According to Dennis Bouwens, the coal outburst occurred at 2:10 p.m. At this time they had only mined approximately 5 feet into the solid coal face. Bouwens shut off the section power center and dangered off the accident scene. He then called the surface and spoke to Tom Scott, mine superintendent, and informed him of the accident. Scott called Freeman Staples, MSHA Supervisor, and told him about the accident and an investigation was begun.

Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the outburst of coal:

1. The outburst occurred on Monday, April 13, 1981, about 2:10 p.m.
2. No personal injury was suffered.
3. The coal outburst caused the withdrawal of miners and disrupted regular mining activity for more than one hour.
4. The coal outburst impaired ventilation.
5. The continuous mining machine is operated remotely with the use of a radio-type controller.
6. Shuttle car conveyor movement is accomplished with a foot operated switch which the operator activates while standing outby his machine.
7. The accident scene was confined to the crosscut being driven from the No. 4 slope to the No. 5 slope. The outburst was approximately 77 feet in length and 22 feet in width.
8. Methane gas in excess of 5.0% was detected in the accident scene and return air course.

9. The overburden in this area is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness. Due to this natural condition, extreme pressure is exerted on the coalbed which creates severe rib sloughage and coal outbursts were often experienced during development operations.

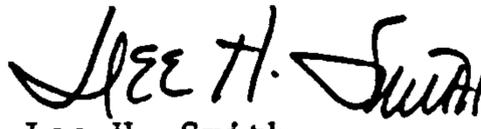
Findings of Fact

Evidence and findings of the investigation indicated there were no violations of Title 30 CFR which contributed to the occurrence of the accident. However, a 107(a) order of withdrawal was issued because of the presence of methane gas which was in excess of 5.0%.

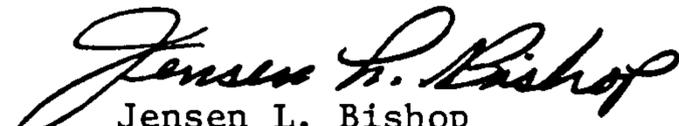
Conclusion

The accident occurred because of the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet in thickness and exerts extreme pressure on the coalbed.

Respectfully submitted,


Lee H. Smith

Approved by:


Jensen L. Bishop
Subdistrict Manager

APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and those persons present during the investigation were:

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

Tom Scott	Superintendent
Dave Dominguez	Mine Foreman
Dewey King	Section Foreman
Dennis Bouwens	Section Foreman

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Employees

Ray Arellano	Continuous Mining Machine Operator
Ed Kemp	Continuous Mining Machine Helper
Mike Jerome	Shuttle Car Operator

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Lee H. Smith	Coal Mine Inspector
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