

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
(Underground Coal Mine)

NONINJURY COAL MINE OUTBURST ACCIDENT

Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine (ID No. 05-00301)  
Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.  
Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 15, 1983

by

Robert L. Huggins  
Coal Mine Inspector

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ROOF CONTROL DIV.

APR - 1983

BSTC MSHA

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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Old 101 Longwall Gob Area

Old 101 Packwall

Old 101 Packwall

Tailgate Return Entry

Legend:

← Intake Air

↔ Return Air

Area supported with 162 500-ton capacity shields

Eickoff 300 LH Shearing Machine

Panline Conveyor

Solid Coal

Shear

#39 Shield

50' to 60' Outburst

#25 Shield

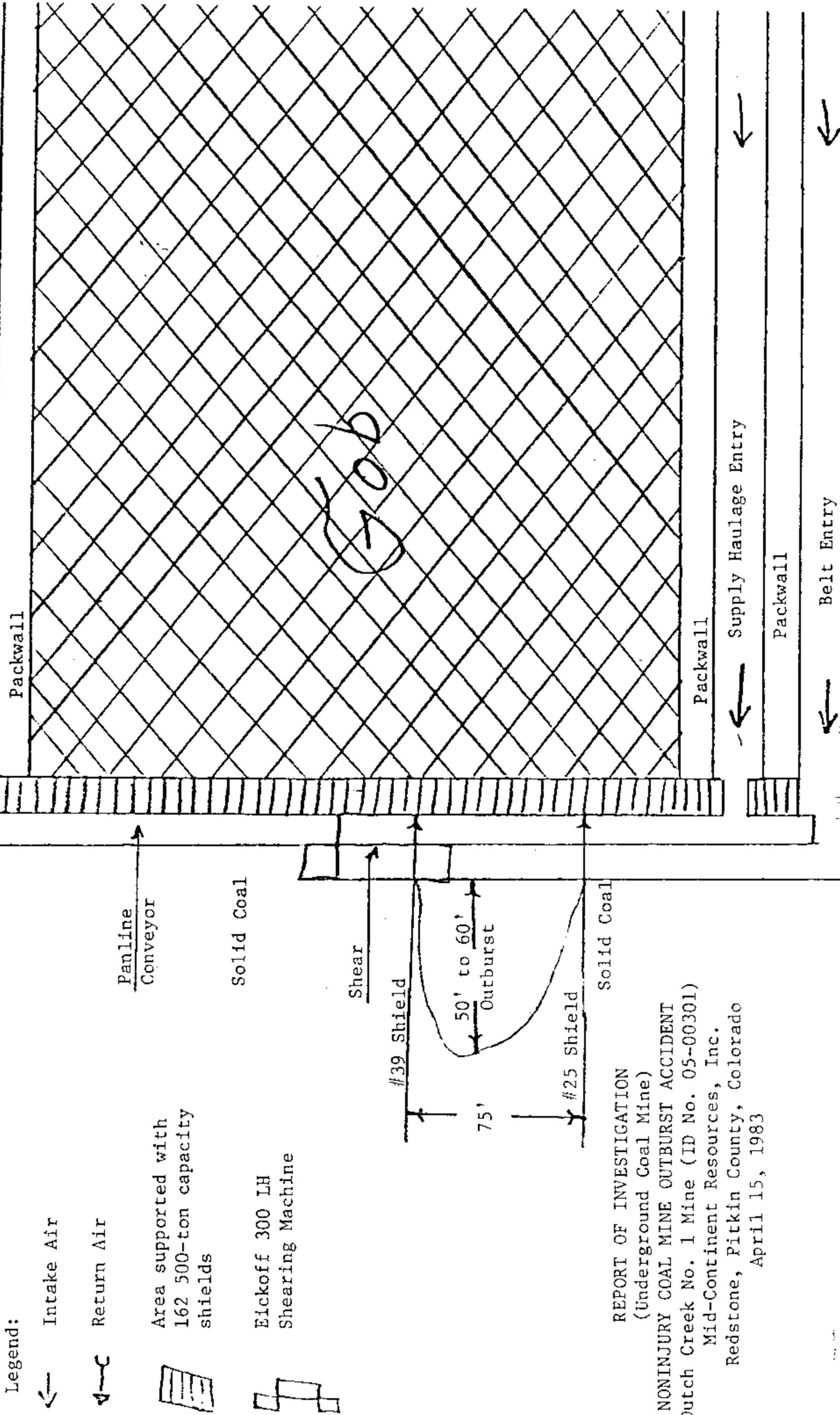
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Authority —

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: 04/15/83

3. Report release date: 05/10/83

4. Mine: Dutch Creek No. 1

5. Mine ID number: 05-00301

6. Company: Mid-Continent Resources, Inc.

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

8. Author(s): Robert L. Huggins

**SECTION B - MINE INFORMATION**

9. Daily production: 1,500 Tons

10. Surface employment: 2

11. Underground employment: 93

12. Name of coalbed: Coal Basin B

13. Thickness of coalbed: 84 Inches

**SECTION D - ORIGINATING OFFICE**

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

**SECTION C - HISTORICAL INFORMATION  
 FREQUENCY RATE (FSAC)**

14. Industry: 9.95

15. This operation: 18.07

16. Training program approved: Yes

17. Mine Profile Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION E - ABSTRACT**

On Friday, April 15, 1983, at 11:00 a.m., an outburst of coal occurred in the face of the 102 longwall section. The accident occurred due to the overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet. No injuries or property damage were sustained.

**SECTION F - MINE ORGANIZATION**

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	John A. Reeves	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
20. Superintendent:	Al Davis	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
21. Safety Director:	Donald Ford	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Donald Ford	P.O. Box 980, Carbondale, CO 81623
23. Labor Organization:	None	
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	N/A	

### Commentary

On Friday, April 15, 1983, the day shift mining crew, under the supervision of Murray Aitken, section foreman, entered the mine and traveled to the 102 advancing longwall section, arriving about 7:30 a.m. Aitken examined the section and assigned various work assignments to the crew. Regular work commenced until the accident occurred at 11:00 a.m. Mike Jerome, shear operator, was cutting the face towards the tailgate when the coal outburst occurred. The headgate cutting shear wheel of the Eickoff 300 LR shear had just reached the #39 shield when the outburst occurred. The coal outburst pushed coal from the face of the advancing longwall for 80 inches out and a length of 75 feet between #25 to #39. The coal layed at an angle of repose from the roof to the top of the face conveyors spill plate. Charles Loveland located at the headgate control station stated that all electricity to the longwall was deenergized as soon as he heard the first sounds of the outburst. The longwall has two methane monitors, one sensor located at the last tailgate shield, and one in the 101 bleeder return entry. The power was deenergized by Loveland before the methane sensors were activated. The occurrence was reported promptly to MSHA inspector Robert L. Huggins by mine underground communications at 11:05 a.m. on April 15, 1983, and an investigation was started immediately.

### Discussion and Evaluation

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

1. The force of the outburst coming from the face of the advancing longwall face pushed loose coal approximately 80 inches filling the longwall face conveyor for 75 feet in length between shields #25 to #39.
2. The outburst of coal did affect ventilation.
3. This seam of coal has considerable overburden in excess of 2,000 feet.
4. The longwall face is approximately 800 feet long and is being mined by the advancing longwall method and with the construction of pack walls to obtain ventilation and haulage entries.
5. The face had been volley fired in the area of the outburst.
6. The coal outburst did disrupt the miners normal mining cycle for more than one hour due to the high concentration of methane.

### 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. A 107(a) imminent danger order was issued after the coal outburst due to the high concentration of methane in excess of 5.0%.

Conclusion

Probable cause of the outburst of coal was a build up of pressures on the longwall face due to overburden which is in excess of 2,000 feet.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert L. Huggins*  
Robert L. Huggins  
Coal Mine Inspector

Approved by:

*Jensen L. Bishop*  
Jensen L. Bishop  
Subdistrict Manager

APPENDIX

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

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Officials

Donald Ford  
Allyn Davis  
Murray Aitken

Safety Director  
Superintendent  
Section Foreman

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Robert L. Huggins

Coal Mine Inspector