

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 5

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT
(UNDERGROUND COAL MINE)

NON-FATAL COAL OUTBURST

Virginia Pocahontas No. 6 Mine (I.D. No. 44-04517)
Garden Creek Pocahontas Company
Mavisdale, Buchanan County, Virginia

October 28, 1992

by

Kenneth B. Shortridge
Coal Mine Safety and Health Inspector (Roof Control)

David L. Fowler
Coal Mine Safety and Health Inspector

Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
P.O. Box 560, Wise County Plaza, Norton, VA 24273
Michael J. Lawless, District Manager

(11)

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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: Non-Fatal Coal Outburst	2. Date MSHA investigation started: October 28, 1992
3. Report release date:	4. Mine: Virginia Pocahontas No. 6
5. Mine ID number: 44-04517	6. Company: Garden Creek Pocahontas Company
7. Town, County, State: Mavisdale, Buchanan, Virginia	8. Author(s): Kenneth E. Shortridge

Section B—Mine Information

9. Daily production: 7000 tons	10. Surface employment: 43
11. Underground employment: 337	12. Name of coalbed: Pocahontas No. 3
13. Thickness of coalbed: 60 - 72 inches	

Section C—Last Quarter Injury Frequency Rate (HSAC) for:

14. Industry: 11.40	15. This operation: 0.39
16. Training program approved: Yes	17. Mine Profile Rating: N/A

Section D—Originating Office

18. Mine Safety and Health Administration Coal Mine Health and Safety District No. : 5	Address: P. O. Box 560, Norton, VA 24273
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Section E—Abstract

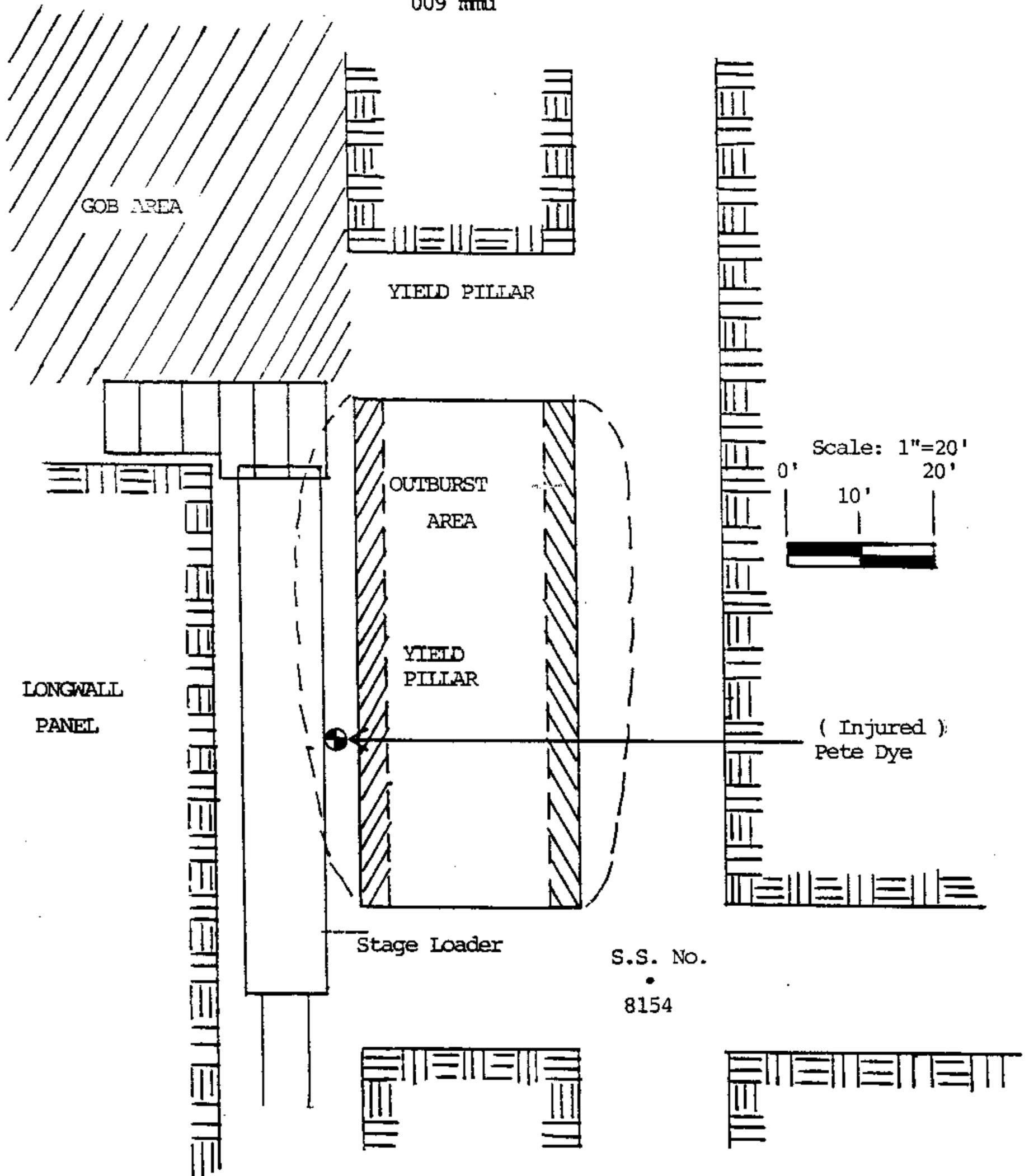
On Wednesday, October 28, 1992, at approximately 1:40 a.m., a coal outburst occurred at the headgate and stage loader for 3 Development off 0 East longwall section (009) resulting in minor injuries to a longwall jack setter.

Section F—Mine Organization

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	S.L. Ogden	Lexington, KY 40575
20. Superintendent:	Rufus Fox	Drawer L, Oakwood, VA 24631
21. Safety Director:	McDonald Hagy	Same
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Doug Lawson	Same
23. Labor Organization:	U.M.W.A.	
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	Max Kennedy	P.O. Box 517, Raven, VA 24639

3Development off 0 East

009 mmu



GARDEN CREEK POCAHONTAS COMPANY

VIRGINIA POCAHONTAS NO. 6

44-04517

10-28-92

COAL OUTBURST

GENERAL INFORMATION

Garden Creek Pocahontas Company, Virginia Pocahontas No. 6 Mine is located at Mavisdale, Buchanan County, Virginia. The mine is situated in the Pocahontas No. 3 coalbed, which averages 66 inches in height. There are three developing sections using a continuous mining system and one retreat longwall section using a shearer. The mine operates three production shifts daily, five days a week. Employment is provided for 33 employees; 254 underground and 59 on the surface. The mine is ventilated by two eleven-foot high pressure Bab-Cock fans located on the surface with a combined air quantity of 1,615,733 cubic feet per minute. The mine liberates 10,122,154 cubic feet of methane gas every 24 hours at the mine fans. A methane drainage program is in use at this mine. Horizontal holes are drilled in the coalbed to drain methane gas prior to longwall mining. A pipeline is used to gather the methane and transport it to the surface where it is vented into the atmosphere. Vertical ventilation degas holes are drilled from the surface into the longwall coal blocks prior to mining.

The last regular safety and health inspection was completed October 1992. A resident inspector is assigned to this mine.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, October 28, 1992, an eleven-man crew under the supervision of Clarence Smith, longwall foreman, entered the mine and traveled to 3 Development off O East working section. The crew arrived on the section at approximately 12:05 a.m. Smith conducted an on-shift examination, then assigned the crew work duties. Work continued normally until approximately 1:40 a.m. Willis R. (Pete) Dye, longwall jack setter, was cleaning the top of the stage loader when the coal outburst occurred. Dye was pinned against the side of the stage loader by coal, draw rock, and timbers that were forced from the rib of the yield pillar separating the No. 1 and No. 2 entries. Dye was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for cuts and abrasions, then released.

All production ceased on the section until an investigation could be conducted.

PHYSICAL FACTORS INVOLVED

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence of the accident:

1. There was an overburden elevation in excess of 2500 feet.
2. Massive sandstone formations were present as evidenced through core drill samples.

CONCLUSION

The accident occurred because the natural conditions conducive to bumps and the load-bearing pillars adjacent to the tailgate entry became overstressed and failed. This shifting of weight to the longwall block produced a stored energy. As the overburden pressures were applied and the longwall approached this area, a sudden release of energy resulted in the outburst.

VIOLATIONS

No violation of 30 CFR was observed during this investigation.


Kenneth E. Shortridge


David L. Fowler

Approved by:

Michael J. Lawless, District Manager