

From: Wayne Western
To: Pam Grubaugh-Littig
Date: 6/3/03 11:17AM
Subject: White Oak Mine Portals

Pam, This Email is a summary of the on site portal investigation that Dana and I did at the White Oak Mine on June 2, 2003, my contact with MSHA on June 3, 2003 and my review of the mine maps on June 3, 2003. Site Visit Dana and I visited the White Oak Mine site about 1:00 PM on June 2, 2003. We saw three portals in the Upper O'Connor Seam. We walk to the portals to see if they had been sealed. The northern exposed portal had been backfilled and then a cinder block seam placed in front of the backfill. The seal had been breached and we could feel cool damp air flowing from the portal. The middle portal had been backfilled and may have had a seal placed in front of the backfill. The area around that portal appeared unstable so we did not get close to the opening. The southern portal had been backfilled and a seal had been placed in front of the backfill. The seal had been breached. Dana and I looked at the seal and noticed that no mortar in the cinder block joints. We could feel a breeze of cool moist air flowing from inside the portal. After we left the area where the three portals were exposed we noticed an area to the north with chain link fencing that had been backfilled. That area might have been where the other two portals are. If so, the backfill completely cover the portals.

The mine maps show that five portals were in the upper seam. MSHA Contact On June 3, 2003, I call the MSHA field office in Price and talked to Mike Shumway. Mike informed me that MSHA no longer did inspections at the White Oak Mine. Mike was the inspector at the White Oak Mine and is not sure what type of seals was placed in the Upper O'Connor seam. Mike will check the files and get back to me. Review of Mine Maps Plate 5-1C show the location of the approved surface and underground mines. The map shows that the portals to the lower seam will not be disturbed. Mining will occur near the portals in the Upper O'Connor Seam.

CC: Dean, Dana