

**From:** Wayne Western  
**To:** Pam Grubaugh-Littig  
**Date:** 6/4/03 10:10AM  
**Subject:** Seals at White Oak Number 1

Pam, Pete Hess told me, on June 4, 2003, that he had spoken to Dave Miller about the portals at the White Oak Number 1 Mine. Operations at the Number 1 Mine ceased around 1991. In 1999, MSHA issued a citation for failure to properly seal the portals. The portals had been backfilled but seals were not in place. The Permittee placed seals and the citation was terminated. Mike Shumway from MSHA called on June 4, 2003, to give me more information about the portals. Mike had called the Denver office for more information about the portal closure plan. The plan called for seals to be placed 1,000 inside the mine. I asked Mike about the citation issued in 1999 but he was not aware of the violation and suggested that I speak to the inspection when he gets back next week. I checked the MRP for the portal closure plan. The approved plan calls for the portals to be sealed and backfilled. In addition, the plan must meet all MSHA requirements. I checked the MRP and files for additional information about portal closures. I found no mention of seals being installed in the inspection reports during 1999. The only reference that I could find for seals being installed is on Plate 5-1 D, Upper O'Connor Seam Mining Surface and Underground. On the map, seals are shown installed on the east returns in April 1996. There are five portals at the White Oak Number 1 Mine. Two of the portals are covered with spoil material from the surface mine. Three portals are open and pose a health safety risk. I recommend that the three open portals be sealed as soon as possible. Wayne

**CC:** Dean, Dana; Mary Ann Wright; Pete Hess; Steve Demczak