

Transcript of the Testimony of Glenn Ullman

Date: August 17, 2010

Case:

Printed On: August 25, 2010

Sargent's Court Reporting Services, Inc.

Phone: 814-536-8908 Fax: 814-536-4968

Email: schedule@sargents.com Internet: www.sargents.com

CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT UNDER OATH

OF

GLEN ULLMAN

taken pursuant to Notice by Alison Salyards, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of West Virginia, at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, 1301 Airport Road, Room C-137, Beaver, West Virginia, on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Any reproduction of this transcript is prohibited without authorization by the certifying agency.

1 APPEARANCES 2 3 MATTHEW N. BABINGTON, ESQUIRE

- 4 U.S. Department of Labor
- 5 Office of the Regional Solicitor
- 6 1100 Wilson Boulevard
- 7 22nd Floor West
- 8 Arlington, VA 22209-2247

9

- 10 BARRY KOERBER, ESQUIRE
- 11 West Virginia Office of Miners'
- 12 Health, Safety and Training
- 13 1615 Washington Street East
- 14 Charleston, WV 25311

15

- 16 TERRY FARLEY
- 17 West Virginia Office of Miners' Health,
- 18 Safety and Training
- 19 1615 Washington Street East
- 20 Charleston, WV 25311

21

- 22 ERIK SHERER
- 23 Mine Safety and Health Administration
- 24 1100 Wilson Boulevard
- 25 Arlington, VA 22209-3939

	Page	4
1	APPEARANCES (cont.)	
2		
3	BRIAN ABRAHAM, ESQUIRE	
4	Abraham and Ilderton, PLLC	
5	115 Prosperity Lane, Fountain Place	
6	Logan, WV 25601	
7	PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE	
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

			Page 5
1	I N D E X		
2			
3	OPENING STATEMENT		
4	By Attorney Babington	8	
5	DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES	9 - 12	
6	CONTINUED OPENING STATEMENT		
7	By Attorney Babington	12 - 16	
8	STATEMENT		
9	By Mr. Farley	16 - 17	
10	WITNESS: GLENN ULLMAN		
11	EXAMINATION		
12	By Mr. Sherer	17 - 33	
13	EXAMINATION		
14	By Mr. Farley	33 - 45	
15	RE-EXAMINATION		
16	By Mr. Sherer	45 - 46	
17	RE-EXAMINATION		
18	By Mr. Farley	46 - 47	
19	RE-EXAMINATION		
20	By Mr. Sherer	47 - 49	
21	RE-EXAMINATION		
22	By Mr. Farley	49 - 51	
23	EXAMINATION		
24	By Ms. Monforton	51 - 52	
25			
İ			

			Page 6
1	I N D E X (cont.)		
2			
3	RE-EXAMINATION		
4	By Mr. Sherer	52 - 54	
5	RE-EXAMINATION		
6	By Mr. Farley	55	
7	EXAMINATION		
8	By Attorney Abraham	56 - 58	
9	RE-EXAMINATION		
10	By Mr. Farley	58 - 59	
11	CLOSING STATEMENT		
12	By Attorney Babington	59 - 60	
13	CERTIFICATE	61	
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

				Page 7
1		EXHIBIT PAGE		
2			PAGE	
3	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFIED	
4	One	Subpoena	10*	
5	Two	Return Receipt	11*	
6	Three	Ellis Portal Fan Map	59*	
7	Four	Bandytown Fan Map	59*	
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25	* Exhibit not at	tached		

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 ------
- 3 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 4 My name is Matt Babington. Today is
- 5 August 17th, 2010. I'm with the Office of the
- 6 Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor. With me is Erik
- 7 Sherer, an accident investigator with the Mine Safety
- 8 and Health Administration, MSHA, an agency of the U.S.
- 9 Department of Labor. Also present are several people
- from the State of West Virginia, and I ask that they
- 11 state their appearance for the record.
- 12 MR. FARLEY:
- 13 I'm Terry Farley with the West Virginia
- Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training.
- 15 MR. O'BRIEN:
- 16 John O'Brien with the West Virginia
- 17 Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training.
- 18 MR. KOERBER:
- 19 Barry Koerber. I'm the Assistant
- 20 Attorney General assigned to represent the West
- 21 Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and
- 22 Training.
- 23 MS. MONFORTON:
- 24 And I'm Celeste Monforton with the
- 25 Governor's independent team.

```
Page 9
 1
 2
        GLENN ULLMAN, HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED
 3
        AS FOLLOWS:
     ATTORNEY KOERBER:
 5
     Sir, would you please state your full
 6
        name for the record and spell your last name?
        A. Okay. It's Glenn Thomas Ullman, Jr., U-L-L-M-A-N.
     ATTORNEY KOERBER:
     And would you please state your address
10
11
        and telephone number?
       A. (b) (7)(C)
12
        (b) (7)(C)
13
14
     ATTORNEY KOERBER:
     And sir, do you have an attorney or
15
        personal representative with you here today?
16
17
        A. Yes.
     ATTORNEY KOERBER:
18
19
     And who is your attorney?
20
        A. Brian ---
21
     ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
22
     Abraham.
        A. --- Abraham.
23
     ATTORNEY KOERBER:
24
     Okay. Mr. Abraham, would you state your
25
```

- name for the record and the firm you're with?
- 2 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 3 Brian Abraham, A-B-R-A-H-A-M. The firm
- 4 is Abraham and Ilderton, I-L-D-E-R-T-O-N, and I
- 5 represent him.
- 6 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 7 He's your client?
- 8 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 9 Yes.
- 10 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 11 Okay. Mr. Ullman, are you appearing here
- 12 today as a result of receiving a subpoena?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 15 Is this a copy of the subpoena you
- 16 received?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 19 I would like that to be Exhibit One.
- 20 (Exhibit G. Ullman One marked for
- 21 identification.)
- 22 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 23 And is this a copy of the return receipt
- 24 signed by you?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 2 Okay. I'd like that to be Exhibit Two,
- 3 please.
- 4 (Exhibit G. Ullman Two marked for
- 5 identification.)
- 6 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 7 And sir, under the statute that gives the
- 8 director authority to issue subpoenas compelling
- 9 witnesses to appear at interviews, there is a \$40 a
- 10 day witness fee that goes along with that, together
- with mileage at the rate of 15 cents per mile and
- tolls so long as you go through in your personal
- vehicle and pay for the tolls out of your own pocket.
- In order to receive that money, I need you to fill
- 15 certain documents, one of which requires you to
- 16 present your Social Security number.
- 17 If you would like to fill out those forms
- 18 and receive that money, you can do so at the end of
- 19 this interview. If you choose not to fill out those
- forms, you can decline the money, but you need to make
- 21 your decision on the record here now.
- 22 A. I decline.
- 23 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 24 Okay. Thank you, sir.
- 25 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:

- 1 I also note, Mr. Ullman, that you have
- another individual with you today. Would that
- 3 individual please identify himself for the record?
- 4 ATTORNEY HARDY:
- 5 David J. Hardy from the law firm of Allen
- 6 Guthrie and Thomas.
- 7 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 8 And who are you --- are you representing
- 9 the witness?
- 10 ATTORNEY HARDY:
- 11 No, Mr. Abraham's representing the
- 12 witness. I'm here on behalf of Performance Coal.
- 13 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 14 Okay. And what is the basis or what's
- the justification for you being present during this
- 16 particular interview?
- 17 ATTORNEY HARDY:
- 18 I'll incorporate by a reference the
- 19 correspondence that I've sent to Derek Baxter and
- 20 Robert Wilson about Performance's position with
- 21 respect to attending these interviews.
- 22 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 23 Okay. All members of the Mine Safety and
- Health Accident Investigation Team and all members of
- 25 the State of West Virginia Accident Investigation Team

- 1 participating in the investigation of the Upper Big
- 2 Branch Mine explosion shall keep confidential all
- 3 information that is gathered from each witness who
- 4 provides a statement until the witness statements are
- officially released. MSHA and the State of West
- 6 Virginia shall keep this information confidential so
- 7 that other ongoing enforcement activities are not
- 8 prejudiced or jeopardized by a premature release of
- 9 information. This confidentiality requirement shall
- 10 not preclude investigation team members from sharing
- 11 information with each other or with other law
- 12 enforcement officials. Team members' participation in
- this interview constitutes their agreement to keep
- this information confidential.
- 15 Government investigators and specialists
- have been assigned to investigate the conditions,
- events and circumstances surrounding the fatalities
- 18 that occurred at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South on
- 19 April 5th, 2010. The investigation is being conducted
- 20 by MSHA under Section 103(a) of the Federal Mine
- 21 Safety and Health Act and the West Virginia Office of
- Miners' Health, Safety and Training. We appreciate
- your assistance in this investigation.
- 24 You may have your personal attorney
- 25 present during the taking of this statement or another

- 1 personal representative if MSHA has permitted it, and
- 2 you may consult with your attorney or representative
- 3 at any time. Since this is not an adversarial
- 4 proceeding, formal Cross Examination will not be
- 5 permitted. However, your personal legal
- 6 representative may ask clarifying questions as
- 7 appropriate.
- 8 Your identity and the content of this
- 9 conversation will be made public at the conclusion of
- 10 the interview process and may be included in the
- 11 public report of the accident, unless you request that
- 12 your identity remain confidential or your information
- would otherwise jeopardize a potential criminal
- investigation. If you request us to keep your
- 15 identity confidential, we will do so to the extent
- 16 permitted by law.
- 17 That means that if a judge orders us to
- 18 reveal your name or if another law requires us to
- 19 reveal your name or if we need to reveal your name for
- other law enforcement purposes, we may do so. Also,
- 21 there may be a need to use the information you provide
- to us or other information we may ask you to provide
- in the future in other investigations into and
- 24 hearings about the explosion. Do you understand?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 2 Do you have any questions?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 5 After the investigation is complete, MSHA
- 6 will issue a public report detailing the nature and
- 7 causes of the fatalities in the hope that greater
- 8 awareness of the cause of accidents can reduce their
- 9 occurrence in the future. Information obtained
- 10 through witness interviews is frequently included in
- 11 these reports. Since we will be interviewing other
- individuals, we request that you not discuss your
- testimony with any person aside from a personal
- 14 representative or Counsel.
- 15 A court reporter will record your
- 16 interview. Please speak loudly and clearly. If you
- do not understand a question asked, please ask the
- interviewer to rephrase it. Please answer each
- 19 question as fully as you can, including any
- information you've learned from someone else.
- 21 I'd like to thank you in advance for your
- 22 appearance here. We appreciate your assistance in
- 23 this investigation. Your cooperation is critical in
- 24 making the nation's mines safer.
- 25 After we've finished asking questions,

- 1 you'll have an opportunity to make a statement and
- 2 provide us with any other information that you believe
- 3 to be important. If at any time after the interview
- 4 you recall any additional information you believe
- 5 might be useful, please contact any of us at the
- 6 contact information provided.
- 7 Finally, any statements given by miner
- 8 witnesses to MSHA are considered to be an exercise of
- 9 statutory rights and protected activity under Section
- 10 105(c) of the Mine Act. If you believe any discharge,
- 11 discrimination or other adverse action is taken
- 12 against you as a result of your cooperation with this
- investigation, you're encouraged to immediately
- contact MSHA and file a complaint under Section 105(c)
- of the Act. Terry?
- 16 MR. FARLEY:
- 17 Mr. Ullman, on behalf of the Office of
- 18 Miners' Health, Safety and Training, I want to inform
- 19 you that the West Virginia Mine Safety Regulations
- 20 also provide protection against discrimination for
- 21 participating in these type interviews. I'd like to
- 22 pass along some contact information for the West
- 23 Virginia Board of Appeals. It's a body which hears
- 24 appeals --- hears complaints from miners regarding
- 25 discrimination. Now, should you have any problems,

- 1 you can contact the Board at that address. Now, I
- 2 would caution you that you need to file your claim
- 3 within 30 days of the event.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 MR. FARLEY:
- 6 Also, you have my business card. Okay.
- 7 EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. SHERER:
- 9 Q. The first thing I want to do is thank you for
- 10 coming down here this afternoon, Mr. Ullman.
- 11 A. You're welcome.
- 12 Q. We're investigating the circumstances and the
- conditions and the practices that surround this
- explosion, and there's really two reasons we're doing
- 15 that. The first one is the families and the loved
- 16 ones and the coworkers of the 29 miners deserve some
- 17 closure. The second reason is we want to prevent this
- type of disaster in the future, so any help you can
- 19 give us is greatly appreciated.
- 20 A. Okay.
- 21 Q. Roughly how many years of mining experience do you
- have, Mr. Ullman?
- 23 A. Approximately six years.
- Q. Six years. When did you start with the Massey
- 25 organization?

- 1 A. That's who I've worked for six years, is Massey.
- Q. Okay. The entire six years?
- 3 A. Yeah, I left for maybe two or three days and came
- 4 back.
- 5 Q. Okay. When did you first start working at Upper
- 6 Big Branch?
- 7 A. It was in '04, 2004.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. I'm thinking the month of November.
- 10 Q. Okay. So virtually your entire mining career has
- 11 been at Upper Big Branch?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any Federal or State certificates?
- 14 A. I have assistant mine foreman and a shot fireman
- 15 certificate.
- 16 Q. Okay. What was your job description immediately
- 17 prior to the explosion?
- 18 A. Fire boss.
- 19 Q. Fire boss. Did you have a particular part of the
- 20 mine that you were responsible for?
- 21 A. I walked all the belts and power centers,
- chargers, pumps, things like that.
- Q. Throughout the entire mine?
- A. On the Ellis side.
- Q. On Ellis side.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 O. All the belts?
- 3 A. There was two men. It would be two men on a 12-
- 4 hour shift.
- 5 Q. Okay. Did you have some way to split it up with
- 6 the other gentleman on your shift?
- 7 A. Yeah, he would walk --- we would rotate. I would
- 8 walk the inby into the mines and he would walk the
- 9 outby, and then the next ---
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. --- the next time we flip-flop, flip-flop.
- 12 Q. So you truly did walk all the belts?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. That's a lot of walking.
- 15 A. About five miles, six miles. See, if we could do
- it two fire boss runs in one shift.
- 17 Q. Okay. And that was at --- what shift was that?
- 18 A. We worked 6:00 in the evening to 6:00 in the
- 19 morning.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. It was a lot of work.
- 22 Q. When you were walking the belts, how did you
- 23 record any problems that you saw? Did you have a
- 24 notebook?
- 25 A. Yeah, I always had a notebook I kept on me, and I

- 1 would write any violation or anything that had already
- been taken care of down in my book, and I would carry
- it over in the fire boss books when I went outside.
- 4 Q. Okay. Do you still have a copy of that notebook?
- 5 A. If I do, if they haven't took it out of my locker,
- 6 I had a copy at the Ellis punch-out, not the entire
- 7 time I fire bossed, but you know, just the last
- 8 notebook that I've used.
- 9 Q. Okay. We'd like to get a copy of that. If you
- 10 could, we would certainly appreciate to get a copy of
- 11 that notebook.
- 12 A. Okay.
- Q. Now, when you came out after fire bossing ---.
- 14 Well, first of all, I guess you probably called out
- 15 your pre-shifts?
- 16 A. My first run I would call out and the second run I
- 17 would take in.
- 18 O. When you called that out and then somebody copied
- 19 it down --- I assume another foreman or fire boss or
- somebody.
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And you went out and you checked that and assigned
- 23 it. Did you ever notice any major differences from
- 24 what you called out?
- 25 A. Nothing major, just small things, sometimes.

- 1 Maybe they just forgot to write down --- they'll say
- the tail would need cleaned, but I wouldn't add it
- 3 on ---
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. --- add it onto that.
- 6 Q. Okay. Who did you work for?
- 7 A. Everett Hager was my superintendent, and on that
- 8 side of the mountain Terry Moore was the mine foreman
- 9 at the time.
- 10 Q. Okay. When you first started --- well, first of
- all, when did you first start fire bossing?
- 12 A. Well, I was the hoot owl third shift foreman. And
- I kind of didn't get along with the president, so I
- asked to be stepped down.
- 15 O. Okay.
- 16 A. I don't know the exact dates, but it was about
- eight months prior to the explosion I started fire
- 18 bossing.
- 19 Q. Okay. So roughly sometime last fall?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. When you started fire bossing, who told you how to
- 22 do it? Did you receive any instruction?
- 23 A. Yes, we would go --- like, they would send you
- 24 with an experienced fire boss for a couple shifts to
- show you what to do and where to go and how to fill

- 1 your books out and stuff like that.
- 2 Q. Okay. When you're doing your fire boss run, if
- 3 you find a miner problem --- let's say you got a bad
- 4 roller or something --- what do you do about it?
- 5 A. I would shut the belt off and drop the roller ---
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. --- and start the belt back up.
- 8 Q. Would you put that in your book?
- 9 A. I wouldn't put it on my pre-shift. I would put it
- on my on-shift if I'd done that.
- 11 Q. Okay. What about if you're walking the belt and
- 12 you see a lot of float dust on the belt. What would
- 13 you do about that?
- 14 A. I would put it in my fire boss book and pass it to
- 15 my foreman that it needs cleaned and dusted or
- 16 whatnot. Like, I would have a third shift foreman
- 17 come in and that would be the person at that time that
- 18 I would tell. During your shift this belt needs to be
- 19 dusted.
- 20 Q. Okay. Have you ever written up an area of the
- 21 belt that needed dusted?
- 22 A. Yes, several times.
- 23 Q. Did you notice next time you were at that same
- location whether it had been dusted?
- 25 A. Sometimes it did, sometimes it hadn't.

- 1 Q. Okay. So it would go at least 24 hours without
- 2 getting dusted?
- 3 A. Yeah, sometimes.
- 4 O. How common was that?
- 5 A. In my opinion, it was lack of help. They didn't
- 6 have enough men.
- 7 Q. Okay. Do you know a gentleman named Mike Dickens?
- 8 A. Yes, very well.
- 9 Q. Who is that, please?
- 10 A. He's an electrician. He was on One section, the
- 11 third shift.
- 12 Q. Okay. Do you talk to Mr. Dickens often?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- Q. Do you recall telling him that you ran into some
- area that had five percent methane?
- 16 A. I had ran into it in a return up on this headgate
- 17 right here.
- 18 O. On the 21 Headgate?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. There was a pump in there that I had to fire boss
- and I went over, which I haven't had to fire boss in a
- long time, because it's behind, you know --- it was
- 24 back that way, but they was ---. I don't remember
- exactly what it was, the percentage, but I recorded

- 1 it. I'm sure I did, because I always record my stuff
- 2 like that.
- Q. Do you recall roughly when that was?
- 4 A. I don't think the longwall started pulling off
- 5 yet. I think that they was still driving the section,
- 6 I believe.
- 7 O. Okay. So would it have been sometime last summer?
- 8 A. Yes, probably.
- 9 Q. Do you know if they had completed the headgate out
- 10 to the Bandytown fan?
- 11 A. They hadn't made it that far, no.
- 12 Q. Okay. So they were still ---?
- 13 A. They were probably close to it, but I don't know.
- 14 Q. Still driving?
- 15 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- Q. When you found that five percent methane, what'd
- 17 you do?
- 18 A. I reported it, called it out and reported it. And
- 19 the foreman --- the foreman told me it was in the
- return and that's where it was supposed to go.
- Q. Okay. Who was that foreman?
- 22 A. I'm thinking Terry Moore was on this shift at the
- time, because he was on evening shift at that time.
- Q. Okay. Did he do anything?
- 25 A. Not on my knowledge.

- 1 Q. Okay. Thank you. Did you ever find any other odd
- 2 concentrations of methane?
- 3 A. Nothing --- nothing major, no, I haven't.
- 4 Q. Okay. Anything over one percent?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. What sort of methane detector did you
- 7 carry?
- 8 A. Solaris.
- 9 Q. Solaris. In the month or so prior to the
- 10 explosion did the alarm on that Solaris ever go off?
- 11 A. No. It might've went off for --- you know,
- bending over and smothering it out or something, but
- 13 not for methane.
- Q. Okay, sure. Now, working the, what'd I call the
- afternoon shift, I guess, afternoon, nightshift, did
- 16 you work Sunday night prior to the explosion?
- 17 A. Sunday night. No, that was my shift off.
- 18 Q. Okay. What was the last shift you recall working?
- 19 A. Saturday I did a --- I had to do a fire run that
- 20 night, because the belts was going to be idle. And I
- 21 done a fire run and I think my shift ended at maybe
- 22 3:30 in the morning ---
- 23 Q. Oh, jeez.
- A. --- because when they stopped running, you know,
- 25 I didn't have to fire boss for dayshift. I sent them

- 1 my fire runs.
- Q. Okay, sure. Which part of the run did you cover
- 3 on that last fire run?
- 4 A. I really don't want to answer, because I don't
- 5 remember.
- 6 Q. Okay. Do you think it was out toward the Ellis
- 7 Portal or was it ---?
- 8 A. It was either inby in or the outby in. There was
- 9 two of us, and I don't recall which one of us done
- 10 that that night.
- 11 Q. Who was the other gentleman on the ---?
- 12 A. Billy Campbell, William Campbell.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. And the section bosses fire run their belts.
- 15 Q. Okay. And then do you recall who those section
- 16 bosses were?
- 17 A. Brandon Bowling --
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 A. --- and Brian Collins.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. That was just for the Ellis side. I don't recall
- 22 who was done the south side.
- 23 Q. Sure, uh-huh (yes). Well, obviously the Ellis
- side is of most concern to us right now.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Do you recall anything unusual that night?
- 2 A. No, nothing.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall smelling anything unusual?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Anything that smelled like kerosene?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Do you recall anything that burned your eyes?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. Where were you when you first heard of the
- 10 explosion?
- 11 A. I was home.
- 12 Q. What was the first thought that went through your
- 13 mind?
- 14 A. I was just in shock, I guess.
- 15 Q. Okay. In your opinion, and that's all I'm asking
- for is an opinion, what do you think caused this
- 17 explosion?
- 18 A. I don't know what caused the explosion. I don't
- 19 think that any mistake caused it. If there was enough
- 20 methane to cause an explosion that big, the people
- 21 that I know that was working the day, I think, had
- 22 enough common sense not to be running in that type of
- 23 methane, but that's just my opinion. I don't know
- enough about it to really ---
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. --- to give an answer on it. It's just a personal
- 2 opinion.
- 3 Q. Sure. Have you spoken with anybody about the
- 4 explosion since it happened?
- 5 A. No, the only people I've spoken to is two Massey
- 6 lawyers.
- 7 Q. Okay. Where are you working now?
- 8 A. At Round Bottom.
- 9 Q. Okay. Any of the UBB crew up there?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You ever --- you haven't spoken with them
- 12 about ---?
- A. I mean, we talk about it, but it's just opinions
- from one to the other. Nobody really knows.
- 15 Q. Okay. Have you been back to UBB since the
- 16 explosion?
- 17 A. I've been to the bathhouse.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, when you were doing your last few fire
- 19 boss runs, what condition do you think the rock dust
- 20 was in?
- 21 A. I can't really remember what the condition it was
- in at the time.
- Q. Okay. Do you ever get out of the belt entry and
- 24 go over in the returns or the intakes?
- 25 A. The only reason I would is if there was a pump or

- 1 something I had to get.
- Q. Okay. Was there any pumps over in those areas?
- 3 A. There wasn't any return pumps on the Ellis side.
- 4 Up in the Ellis Portal they was a couple in the
- 5 neutral, a couple pumps.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. They had, yeah, two pumps.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Up near Ellis Five belt.
- 10 Q. Okay. When you went over and checked those pumps,
- 11 what condition was the rock dust like around there?
- 12 A. It was always wet.
- Q. Was it white? Was it gray?
- 14 A. It was gray from --- I guess rock dust and water
- 15 mixed and just real white --- or real gray looking
- from the water kind of dulling it out, I guess.
- 17 Q. Okay. What about along the belt structure? Was
- 18 there any float coal dust that you recall?
- 19 A. Yeah, there was sometimes. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do you recall the last couple times you did a fire
- 21 boss run, did you notice any float dust?
- 22 A. I can't remember.
- Q. Okay. Did you ever have any reason to go down in
- 24 the tailgate of the longwall?
- 25 A. I think they had men working down there at one

- 1 time, and they had us to go pre-shift it for, like, a
- work area.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall about when that was?
- 4 A. It was close to the explosion.
- 5 O. And what was the conditions like down there as far
- 6 as rock dusting in your ---?
- 7 A. Not good, not bad.
- 8 Q. Not good, not bad. Kind of so-so?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Did you ever get up in this --- I think this was
- 11 the Two section, they called it, the rooms at the end
- of the current longwall panel?
- 13 A. The only rooms I've ever had to get was inby the
- 14 Glory Hole area.
- 15 O. Okay.
- 16 A. They was all the way up in the faces.
- 17 Q. Okay. When is the last time you were up at the
- 18 Glory Hole?
- 19 A. Probably at eight o'clock that Saturday shift,
- 20 because I always --- I had to fire boss these
- 21 rooms ---
- 22 Q. Oh, okay.
- 23 A. --- on every eight-hour shift.
- Q. Okay. We're calling this the Eight North area.
- 25 Is that what you call it?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. What condition was that in?
- 3 A. Deserted. I mean, nobody's been there in a long
- 4 time, just fire bosses walking through it, so they're
- 5 fire bosses' rooms.
- 6 Q. Okay. What about the rock dust up there?
- 7 A. It was all right.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did you smell anything funny up there?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Okay. Did you notice if the puddles up there were
- 11 bubbling?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. Okay. Was there some --- if you ran into a belt
- head or transfer point that had gobbed out or
- something and you weren't able to clean it up, how did
- 16 you get that work done?
- 17 A. There were several times I'd shut the belts off to
- get it clean, and the crews would have to come and
- 19 help clean it.
- 20 Q. Okay. Did you ever get any bad feedback about
- 21 that?
- 22 A. A few times I have.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. But they wasn't there whenever it was gobbed out,
- 25 so they more or less just trying to find out if it was

- 1 bad enough to shut the belts down.
- Q. Okay. When was the last time you shut a belt
- 3 down?
- 4 A. Not long before the explosion. I mean, it gobbed
- 5 off quite a bit.
- 6 Q. Okay. Was there any particular place that gobbed
- 7 out?
- 8 A. Ellis Five Tail would gob out a lot on the Four
- 9 North Head.
- 10 Q. Any particular reason for that?
- 11 A. The way the belt head was, it was sitting at an
- 12 angle.
- 13 Q. Oh, gee.
- 14 A. Just having problems figuring out how to fix it, I
- 15 quess.
- 16 Q. Okay. Do you recall if there was some
- 17 construction going on around the transfer from the 22
- 18 Headqate section to the Seven North belt?
- 19 A. They was when they was putting that belt --- that
- 20 extension in on the belt head.
- Q. Okay. Did you examine that area?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Were they finished with that construction?
- 24 A. They had just started running that belt, I
- 25 believe ---

- 1 Q. Oh, okay.
- 2 A. --- not long before the explosion.
- Q. Do you recall roughly how long before the
- 4 explosion?
- 5 A. A couple weeks, maybe.
- 6 Q. Okay. Any particular problem you can remember
- 7 with that belt?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. Did you actually see that belt operate?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Okay. How about the section belt coming off of
- the 22 Tailgate? Did you examine it?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. What sort of condition were those belts in?
- 15 A. If I recall, they needed cleaned. They was rock
- 16 dusted, I believe.
- 17 Q. Okay. Were the belt entries generally --- were
- the roofs meshed above the belt entries?
- 19 A. They was and then they stopped doing it.
- 20 Q. Okay. Do you recall about where they stopped
- 21 doing that?
- 22 A. I'm thinking Four North, somewhere in that.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 EXAMINATION
- 25 BY MR. FARLEY:

- 1 Q. Mr. Ullman, I want to clarify a few things, so I
- 2 may be jumping around, so bear with me. According to
- our certified mail receipt, you would've received your
- 4 subpoena for this interview about August 10th; is that
- 5 correct?
- 6 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 7 Q. Okay. Now, since you received your subpoena, has
- 8 any representative from Performance Coal, Upper Big
- 9 Branch Mine or Massey Coal Services contacted you
- 10 about this interview?
- 11 A. Other than me getting in touch with him, I think I
- was the only one. I was offered. I was given a form
- or something with a number on it if I wanted to have a
- representative with me, a lawyer with me, that I had
- 15 that right.
- 16 Q. Okay. All right. Now, who provided you with that
- 17 document?
- 18 A. I can't remember his name. He was Chris something
- and he was one of the Massey lawyers ---
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. --- that had talked to me prior to that.
- 22 Q. Okay. You mentioned a notebook in which you
- 23 recorded your findings during your examinations at UBB
- on the belts.
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Now, do you actually have that notebook in your
- 2 possession?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. Do you have it at home?
- 5 A. If it's still there, it would be in my locker at
- 6 the Ellis punch-out.
- 7 Q. If it still exists, it would be ---
- 8 A. Yes, I mean I've ---
- 9 Q. --- in your locker at Ellis?
- 10 A. --- not been up there since the explosion.
- 11 Q. Okay. All right. Now, I hate to be redundant
- here, but I missed something earlier. You indicated
- that the latter part of 2009 that you had asked to
- step down to beltman fire boss --- and I'm sorry, what
- 15 was your position prior to that?
- 16 A. Just shift foreman.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. I was just a foreman over third shift.
- 19 Q. Okay. Now, when you encountered the methane in
- 20 the return at the --- what now is the --- what is now
- 21 the existing longwall headgate entries last year
- around five percent, now, when you encountered the
- 23 methane, did your alarm on your detector go off?
- A. Yeah, as soon as I opened the man door. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. Now, when you opened the man door, did you

- 1 stop at that point ---
- 2 A. Yeah, I ---
- 3 Q. --- or did you go on through?
- 4 A. --- stopped, because I've never been around
- 5 methane and it's --- I ain't used to my detector going
- off and it startled me and I just backed out.
- 7 Q. Okay. So you didn't go through the door, then?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. Since that time last year at UBB have you
- 10 had any kind of a similar experience ---
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. --- at any time where your detector went off ---
- 13 A. No.
- Q. --- in that manner? During your time at the Upper
- Big Branch Mine, have you been in the area behind the
- longwall toward the Bandytown fan?
- 17 A. No, not since the longwall has started running, I
- haven't. I was up in that area whenever they was
- 19 driving it.
- Q. Okay. But not since the longwall has been up?
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 Q. Okay. In the Eight North area --- Erik asked you
- about that. When you were in the Eight North area,
- 24 did you travel all the way to the faces at the ---
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 O. --- far end there?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, when was the last time you were there?
- 4 A. Probably on that last shift, that Saturday that I
- 5 worked, because I have to fire boss them rooms every
- 6 eight hours.
- 7 Q. Okay. Now, are these faces ---? I understand
- 8 that --- I've been told that this map is not entirely
- 9 correct as it depicts the ---
- 10 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 11 Q. --- faces in Eight North. I'm told that there are
- ventilating controls extending into the places; ---
- 13 A. They are.
- 14 O. --- is that correct?
- 15 A. They are now, yes. They wasn't finished. He had
- 16 had a foreman. The new third shift foreman was
- 17 building a permanent, stop ventilating the air to go
- around, you know. And he hadn't got all the rooms
- 19 finished yet.
- 20 Q. Okay. Well, what kind of permanent
- 21 ventilating ---?
- 22 A. Kennedy, Kennedy Stoppings.
- 23 Q. Okay. All right. Now, prior to April 5th, you
- 24 had 12-hour shifts at that point?
- 25 A. I got to leave early that night.

- 1 Q. Okay. But prior --- but your normal routine was a
- 2 12-hour ---
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. --- shift; is that right?
- 5 A. Yes, yes.
- 6 Q. Now, do I understand that you would've made two
- 7 exams during that ---
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 O. --- 12-hour shift?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Now, would one of them have been essentially an
- on-shift and the other one a pre-shift?
- 13 A. No, I would do a --- I would fire boss at eight
- o'clock for the hoot owl.
- 15 O. Okay.
- 16 A. And then from 11:00 to 3:00 I would work on
- whatever I found or whatever they'd tell me to work
- on. And then from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. I would
- 19 pre-shift the mines for dayshift.
- 20 Q. Okay. I got you. I asked you earlier if since
- 21 the time that you receive ---- if anyone from --- any
- 22 representative of Performance Coal, Upper Big Branch
- 23 Mine or Massey Coal Services had contacted you after
- 24 you received your subpoena, and you indicated you
- 25 received a document from the attorney. Did you

- 1 receive the document after August 10?
- 2 A. It was after I received it, because I asked his
- 3 opinion and he wouldn't give me an opinion. He just
- 4 gave me that paper. I asked him if he thought I need
- 5 to have an attorney.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. And he just told me --- he just gave me the paper.
- Q. Thank you. Can I ask you to take one of the
- 9 colored markers and mark your area of responsibility
- 10 prior to April 5th in terms of the belts you examined?
- 11 A. Well, like I said, there was two of us and we
- 12 would just take turns ---
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. --- on which end we did.
- 15 Q. If you would, please, maybe mark the alternate
- 16 routes in different colors if you would, please. Mark
- one in pink there and the next one in whatever color.
- We need another map.
- 19 A. Yeah, this is running out here.
- 20 MR. SHERER:
- 21 Yeah, we actually have one under this
- that may be more appropriate. Okay. Now, this
- 23 doesn't get the development section, but it does go
- all the way out to the Ellis Portal. We're going to
- 25 need both of them.

- 1 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 2 Okay. Oh, you're not ---?
- 3 MR. SHERER:
- 4 Yeah, let's mark this one up.
- 5 A. This is the Ellis Five belt; right? Which entry
- 6 is the belt entry, this one? Do you want me to mark
- 7 the whole thing?
- 8 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 9 Q. Yeah, just mark it. Don't worry about it. This
- is your map to mark. We've got plenty of maps.
- 11 WITNESS COMPLIES
- 12 A. The head area, Number Five Head.
- 13 BY MR. FARLEY:
- Q. Okay. Now, try to indicate where the first run
- ends and the second one starts up.
- 16 A. The first run would end at Five Tail ---
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. --- a mile for me.
- 19 Q. All right.
- 20 A. The second ---. Want me to go ahead and do
- 21 this, ---
- 22 Q. Sure.
- A. --- my second run?
- Q. Sure. That's fine.
- 25 WITNESS COMPLIES

- 1 A. My second run, I just ---.
- 2 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 3 Are we going to need that one again or
- 4 should we just ---?
- 5 MR. FARLEY:
- 6 I don't think we need it right now. We
- 7 may refer to it, but I don't think we'll need it.
- 8 OFF RECORD DISCUSSION
- 9 A. Those are the belts.
- 10 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 11 Q. Okay. Can you also mark other areas that you were
- 12 responsible to examine?
- 13 A. Okay.
- 14 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 15 Is that on that same ---? Should we use
- 16 the same highlighter for that?
- 17 MR. FARLEY:
- 18 No, just use a different one. It'll be
- 19 color coded here.
- 20 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 21 Just to note that --- so the first run
- 22 you highlighted with a pink highlighter?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 25 And then the second run you highlighted

- with a blue highlighter?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 4 And you're about to mark these other
- 5 areas with a green highlighter.
- 6 A. Now, these rooms, like I said, they had --- some
- of them had stoppings in them. I can't remember which
- 8 ones was finished and which ones wasn't.
- 9 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 10 Q. Okay. That's fine. You examined what would've
- 11 been the ---
- 12 A. Yeah, these rooms.
- Q. --- faces in the abandoned or the idle Eight North
- 14 section?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 MR. SHERER:
- 18 Can I ask a question?
- 19 MR. FARLEY:
- 20 Sure.
- 21 MR. SHERER:
- 22 You drew these faces, these entries out.
- 23 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 24 MR. SHERER:
- 25 Was this butted off close to this

- 1 crosscut the way it was shown on this map?
- 2 A. Some of them was drove up further than others.
- 3 This one here was flush. This one here was maybe ten
- feet in, and then this one, maybe 20, 20, 20 inby, 25.
- 5 MR. SHERER:
- 6 Okay. Thank you. Any other areas that
- 7 you examined?
- 8 A. Not on this side, no, not at the time that I was
- 9 fire bossing this side. This was it. There was a
- 10 power center right in this area.
- 11 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 12 Q. Maybe draw a line out from that and identify it,
- if you would, please.
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 WITNESS COMPLIES
- 16 MR. SHERER:
- 17 One more question.
- 18 MR. FARLEY:
- 19 Yeah.
- 20 MR. SHERER:
- 21 When you marked up the map from Ellis
- 22 Portal, ---
- A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 24 MR. SHERER:
- 25 --- were there any other areas on that

- 1 map that you also had to examine?
- 2 A. No, not at the time --- not at that time. There
- 3 used to be rooms, but they had finished the stoppings
- 4 in those rooms.
- 5 MR. SHERER:
- 6 Okay. Thank you.
- 7 BY MR. FARLEY:
- Q. Did you have enough time to adequately examine
- 9 your area of assignment?
- 10 A. That's all the time I had. I mean if I started
- 11 --- if I did not start my fire boss run exactly 3:00
- 12 a.m., I wasn't done by 6:00.
- 13 Q. Okay. Same on both ends?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Now, I assume that means you were walking
- 16 continuously?
- 17 A. Yes. The only places --- I would walk on my
- belts, but I would have a ride waiting on me to go get
- 19 these rooms, and I would take a ride down the track
- 20 entry to go to the rooms.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. Which the track ended right here. There was a
- fall, so we had to get off the ride and walk ---
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. --- right here.

- 1 Q. You're pointing to about, what ---
- 2 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 3 160 Break?
- 4 A. 160 Break.
- 5 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 6 Q. --- 160 Crosscut in Eight North?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 MR. FARLEY:
- 9 Okay. I don't think I have anything
- 10 else.
- 11 MS. MONFORTON:
- 12 I don't have anything.
- 13 RE-EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. SHERER:
- 15 Q. I got one question. Mr. Ullman, you say you had
- 16 exactly three hours.
- 17 A. Uh-huh (yes), yes.
- 18 Q. And you gave indication you had to work hard to
- 19 make it at three hours.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. What if you found a problem?
- 22 A. Then I was late and they didn't come underground
- if it was on my time, so I didn't --- I did not call
- 24 my report out until I was finished or I didn't put it
- in the book until I was 100 percent finished with my

- 1 examination.
- Q. Do you feel that you were able to give an adequate
- 3 examination?
- 4 A. Sometimes. Most of the time I was, but sometimes,
- 5 like I was telling my lawyer, I asked for help several
- 6 times and was given excuses.
- 7 Q. Who'd you ask for help?
- 8 A. Chris Blanchard.
- 9 Q. Any specific reason you asked for help?
- 10 A. Just so that we aren't on such a tight schedule,
- 11 getting everything done, getting our fire bossing done
- 12 for that shift or for hoot owl.
- 13 Q. What was Mr. Blanchard's response to you?
- 14 A. I don't recall exactly what he said, but 90
- percent of the time it was sarcasm or his way, the
- reason he thinks that nobody else is right.
- 17 Q. Did Mr. Blanchard ever walk those belts with you?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 MR. SHERER:
- 20 Okay. Thank you.
- 21 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 22 Terry, anything?
- 23 RE-EXAMINATION
- 24 BY MR. FARLEY:
- Q. Were there any pumps in the Eight North area?

- 1 A. I don't recall if they was.
- 2 MR. FARLEY:
- 3 Okay.
- 4 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 5 Before we close out, let's take a quick
- five-minute break and then we'll come back on and
- 7 close it out. Off the record.
- 8 SHORT BREAK TAKEN
- 9 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 10 Erik?
- 11 MR. SHERER:
- 12 Okay.
- 13 RE-EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. SHERER:
- Q. Mr. Ullman, a couple things here. You were
- 16 talking about how you had a limited amount of time to
- do your examinations, your pre-shift examinations.
- 18 How many times did you keep the crew from coming
- 19 underground?
- 20 A. Dayshift I usually was okay, because I would have
- a couple hoot owl bosses, you know, like the longwall
- 22 boss, which is Abraham and Keith Stanley. But my
- second run, I would have --- they would help me.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. They would get the longwall belt.

- 1 Q. Sure.
- 2 A. Or whoever --- whatever the boss was up here,
- 3 which I think was Kyle Anderson at the time, he would
- 4 get his belt on the second run or the dayshift.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. On my first run, though, there was quite a few
- 7 times the hoot owl was late, maybe five, six times in
- 8 my knowledge. I'd keep them outside for thirty or
- 9 forty minutes until I was finished.
- 10 Q. Okay. That's five or six times over about an
- 11 eight-month period?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- Q. So not quite one a month?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. Do you recall the last time that you kept
- one of the shifts out prior to the explosion?
- 17 A. I can't recall, no.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, you said you were complaining to Mr.
- 19 Blanchard about that. Did any of the other fire
- 20 bosses, to your knowledge, complain about being
- 21 rushed?
- 22 A. I don't think so. I guess I'm a little more
- 23 mouthy than they are. Maybe they was just job-scared
- to say anything or whatnot. I really didn't care.
- 25 Q. Okay, sure. I understand. I think I asked this

- 1 before about Mr. Blanchard's response to you. And you
- 2 said most the time he was sarcastic. Do you know why
- 3 he was sarcastic?
- 4 A. I honestly don't know why he is the way he is, but
- 5 I'm --- I would never be that type person.
- 6 MR. SHERER:
- 7 Okay. Thank you. Have anything, Matt?
- 8 RE-EXAMINATION
- 9 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 10 Q. Okay. You mentioned that you had stepped back
- 11 when you became a fire boss. You also mentioned that
- 12 you had a disagreement with the president.
- 13 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 0. Was that also Mr. Blanchard?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What was the nature of that disagreement?
- 17 A. Just the way he talked to me, the notes he would
- send me. We called them nasty notes, what the coal
- 19 miners called them, but I just got tired of being
- 20 talking to like I was a child. And if they --- I had
- 21 actually quit over it, because they wouldn't let me
- 22 step down, and that's what it took for me to step
- down, was to quit. And they convinced me to coming
- 24 back as an hourly employee.
- Q. Okay. Now, when I was asking you about your time

- 1 you mentioned that you were off for a few days. Was
- 2 that when you quit?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, these nasty notes, were you the only
- 5 person that got them?
- 6 A. No. Anybody that bosses for Chris Blanchard will
- 7 tell you the same thing.
- 8 Q. Do you feel that these nasty notes --- do you
- 9 think they interfered with the people that bossed at
- 10 this mine? Does it bother them?
- 11 A. I mean it upsets them, yes. It ticks them off.
- 12 Q. Did it ever influence you to take any shortcuts?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. Because like I stated, I don't --- I didn't care
- if he fired me or not; I was going to do my job, to
- 17 the best of my knowledge.
- 18 O. Sure. That's commendable. Now, you also said
- that you're a little mouthier than most people. Do
- 20 you think other people were intimidated by these nasty
- 21 notes?
- 22 A. I'm sure they was.
- 23 Q. Have you heard any specific instances where
- they've been influenced?
- 25 A. I do, but I can't recall what they were over. I

- 1 mean, I just --- I know people talked about it.
- 2 MR. FARLEY:
- 3 Okay. Thank you.
- 4 MS. MONFORTON:
- 5 May I ask a follow-up on the ---
- 6 MR. FARLEY:
- 7 Sure.
- 8 MS. MONFORTON:
- 9 --- the nasty note issue?
- 10 MR. FARLEY:
- 11 Sure.
- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MS. MONFORTON:
- Q. What form did the nasty note take? Was it, you
- know, something they'd left in your locker or is it
- 16 something they ---?
- 17 A. No, he would write ---. You know, if I would not
- get a job completed that shift, the next shift I'd
- 19 come in and have a ---. Instead of him coming to me
- 20 like a man and talking about it, he would leave a note
- on the board, some sarcastic note for all my men to
- see, and --- you know, just I would feel belittled.
- Q. Like on a bulletin board or a whiteboard ---
- 24 A. Yeah.
- Q. --- he would leave that?

- 1 A. Or he would leave them --- sometimes he would
- 2 leave them in a notebook, so ---.
- 3 MS. MONFORTON:
- 4 Okay. Thank you.
- 5 MR. FARLEY:
- 6 Okay.
- 7 RE-EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. SHERER:
- 9 Q. How many times did you complain about not having
- 10 enough time to do your fire bossing?
- 11 A. Several times. I don't recall exactly how many,
- 12 but several.
- Q. Okay. When is the last time, if you recall, prior
- 14 to the explosion that you complained about that?
- 15 A. It was probably a while before, because I kind of
- just give up on it, really, because it wasn't getting
- 17 nobody to take any action on it.
- 18 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 19 Can I ask you to maybe clarify this for
- 20 him? I think you've kind of melted two time frames
- 21 together, you know, maybe it's the way he's telling
- it. If I understood, his testimony is the time he had
- the issue with the boss and quit was before when he
- was the mine foreman, not the fire boss.
- 25 MR. SHERER:

- 1 Uh-huh (yes), yes.
- 2 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 3 And I think it's confusing.
- 4 BY MR. SHERER:
- 5 Q. Yeah, I'm referring to specifically to when you
- 6 were a fire boss and you didn't have enough time to
- 7 complete your fire boss runs. And you responded that
- 8 you'd kind of given up on that prior to the explosion;
- 9 is that correct?
- 10 A. Yeah, and I don't know exactly how far from the
- 11 explosion it was, but this was just something that
- would come up if I seen him at the mines, which was
- 13 not very often.
- 14 Q. Okay, sure.
- 15 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 16 But I guess this, those complaints you
- made to Blanchard were made after you came back to the
- 18 mine ---
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 21 --- as a fire boss and before the
- 22 explosion?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 25 So in that time period?

- 1 A. Yes. Like, he wasn't there at my times, you know.
- 2 Six o'clock in the morning, he usually wasn't at UBB,
- 3 but when it was is when I was ---
- 4 BY MR. SHERER:
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. --- complaining about this stuff.
- 7 Q. Okay. Thank you. Okay. Yeah. Now, we were
- 8 discussing rollers earlier, and you mentioned that
- 9 you'd drop them on your own --- if you were doing a
- 10 pre-shift run you found a bad roller, you could drop
- 11 them. I think you mentioned something about your on-
- shift. Did you do the on-shifts and the pre-shifts at
- 13 the same time?
- 14 A. No. Like, say if this roller was bad on this
- belt, I would shut the belt off and drop the roller
- and start the belt back up, and then on my on-shift I
- 17 would --- me or another crew would go back and replace
- 18 the roller.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. They had a roller crew there.
- 21 MR. SHERER:
- 22 Oh, okay. Thank you.
- 23 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 24 Terry, anything else?
- 25 MR. FARLEY:

- 1 One.
- 2 RE-EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 4 Q. The other fire boss belt man who rotated with you
- 5 during your shift, I don't think we got his name, did
- 6 we?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did we?
- 9 A. William Campbell.
- 10 Q. William Campbell, I'm sorry. Right. Now, I
- 11 assume --- is it correct that Mr. Campbell had the
- same difficulty you had in completing ---
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. --- completing the exam of the entire area?
- 15 A. Actually he was just a contractor.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. He wasn't a Massey member.
- 18 MR. FARLEY:
- 19 Okay. Thank you.
- 20 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 21 Celeste?
- MS. MONFORTON:
- 23 No.
- 24 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 25 I have a clarification question.

- 1 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 2 Uh-huh (yes).
- 3 EXAMINATION
- 4 BY ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 5 Q. Glenn, when you went through the man door and you
- 6 said your methane detector went off, where were you
- 7 exactly in the mine when that happened? Could you
- 8 show us?
- 9 A. I was behind this longwall, and I don't know
- 10 exactly which break it is, but it was up in this area
- 11 here somewhere.
- 12 Q. Okay. That would be ---? How would you describe
- that area, the tailgate, the headgate entry?
- 14 A. Yeah, this is the headgate entry for the longwall
- 15 now.
- Q. Do you remember which entry you were in?
- 17 A. I don't know what entry it was, but it was one
- 18 entry over from the track.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 21 Okay. And it's the area inby the
- longwall setup entries toward Bandytown fan; is that
- 23 right?
- A. Yes, but at the time the longwall wasn't there
- 25 yet. This was driving, you know. It was driving this

- 1 panel up.
- 2 BY ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 3 Q. Was that before or after the Bandytown fan was put
- 4 in line?
- 5 A. I think they was still driving. The Bandytown fan
- 6 wasn't put in line yet.
- 7 Q. Okay. But what methane level does your detector
- 8 go off?
- 9 A. It's one percent.
- 10 Q. Okay. When it went off, did you look at the
- 11 detector and ---?
- 12 A. By the time I looked at it, it was already up
- there to what it was when I backed out.
- 0. What was it?
- 15 A. I don't recall exactly what it was. It was nigh.
- 16 Q. Okay; because at one point I thought you said it
- 17 was five percent.
- 18 A. Well ---.
- 19 Q. One point I thought you said you didn't know, so I
- 20 wanted to clarify which it was.
- 21 A. They said that somebody told them five percent,
- but I said that I didn't know exactly what it was.
- Q. Do you know what it was doing when it went off?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. But you just know it went off?

- 1 A. Yeah. Now, it was high, I know it was high, but I
- don't know exactly what number it was. It startled me
- 3 and I backed out.
- 4 Q. Okay. Did it then --- did it just clear itself or
- 5 what happened?
- 6 A. Yeah, basically it cleared itself.
- 7 Q. Did you go back through the man door?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. All right. Did you record that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 ATTORNEY ABRAHAM:
- 12 Okay. That's all.
- 13 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 14 Okay. anything else?
- 15 RE-EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 17 Q. I think I asked you this earlier. When you opened
- the door in this instance, you were just talking about
- 19 your detector went off? You did not go through the
- 20 door; is that correct?
- 21 A. I mean I probably half stepped through it ---.
- 22 Q. Then you stepped away ---
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. --- immediately; correct?
- 25 A. Yes, yes.

- 1 MR. FARLEY:
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 4 Okay. Well, there was a couple documents
- 5 we marked up. Well, one is a copy of the subpoena
- 6 that Mr. Koerber provided at the beginning. That'll
- 7 be marked G. Ullman One. A copy of the return receipt
- 8 for the subpoena; that'll be G. Ullman Two. A copy of
- 9 the Ellis Portal fan that we marked up with your fire
- 10 boss route; that'll be G. Ullman Three.
- 11 (Exhibit G. Ullman Three marked for
- 12 identification.)
- 13 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 14 And then a copy of the Bandytown fan map
- 15 with more markings about your fire boss routes;
- 16 that'll be G. Ullman Four.
- 17 (Exhibit G. Ullman Four marked for
- 18 identification.)
- 19 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 20 On behalf of MSHA and the Office of
- 21 Miners' Health, Safety and Training, I want to thank
- 22 you for appearing and answering questions today. Your
- cooperation is very important in the investigation as
- 24 we work to determine the cause of the accident. We
- 25 request that you not discuss your testimony with any

- 1 person aside from a personal representative. After
- 2 questioning other witnesses, we may call you if we
- 3 have any follow-up questions.
- 4 If at any time you have additional
- 5 information regarding the accident that you'd like to
- 6 provide to us, please contact us at the contact
- 7 information previously provided. If you wish, you may
- 8 now go back over any answer you've given during this
- 9 interview, and you may also make any statement that
- 10 you'd like to make at this time.
- 11 A. I don't have any statements.
- 12 ATTORNEY BABINGTON:
- 13 Okay. Well, thank you. And again, I
- want to thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
- 15 A. Thank you.
- * * * * * * * * *
- 17 CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT UNDER OATH
- 18 CONCLUDED AT 5:56 P.M.
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

Page 61 1 STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA) 2 3 4 CERTIFICATE 5 I, Alison Salyards, a Notary Public in and for the State of West Virginia, do hereby certify: 6 7 That the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition, was duly sworn by me on said 8 date and that the transcribed deposition of said witness is a true record of the testimony given by 10 11 said witness; 12 That the proceeding is herein recorded fully and accurately; 13 14 That I am neither attorney nor counsel for, 15 nor related to any of the parties to the action in which these depositions were taken, and further that I 16 17 am not a relative of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, or financially interested in 18 this action. 19 20 21 22 alicon Salyards 23 24

25