

Transcript of the Testimony of Jacob Doss

Date: August 31, 2010

Case:

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STATEMENT UNDER OATH

OF

JACOB DOSS

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 31, 2010, beginning at 1:10 p.m.

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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 3 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 4 My name is Derek Baxter. Today is August
- 5 31st, 2010. I'm with the Office of the Solicitor,
- 6 U.S. Department of Labor. With me is Erik Sherer, an
- 7 accident investigator with the Mine Safety and Health
- 8 Administration, MSHA, an agency of the United States
- 9 Department of Labor. Also present are several people
- from the State of West Virginia. 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. TUCKER:
- 16 Bill Tucker with the Office of Miners'
- 17 Health, Safety and Training.
- 18 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 19 Barry Koerber, Assistant Attorney General
- 20 assigned to represent the West Virginia Office of
- 21 Miners' Health, Safety and Training.
- 22 MS. SPENCE:
- 23 I'm Beth Spence with the Governor's
- independent investigation.
- 25 ATTORNEY BAXTER:

- 1 There are also several members of the
- 2 investigation team present in the room today. And Mr.
- 3 Sherer, Mr. Farley and Ms. Spence will be conducting
- 4 the questioning today. Will you please swear in the
- 5 witness?
- 6 -----
- 7 JACOB DOSS, HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AS
- 8 FOLLOWS:
- 9 ------
- 10 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 11 Sir, would you please state your full
- name for the record and spell your last?
- 13 A. Jacob William Doss, D-O-S-S.
- 14 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 15 And would you please state your address
- and telephone number?
- 17 A. (b) (7)(C)
- 18 (b) (7)(C) Phone number (b) (7)(C)
- 19 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 20 And are you expecting an attorney or a
- 21 personal representative to appear here with you today?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 24 Are you appearing here as a result of
- 25 being served with a subpoena?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 3 And would this be a copy of that
- 4 subpoena?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 7 Okay. I'd like that to be marked as
- 8 Exhibit One.
- 9 (Doss Exhibit One marked for
- 10 identification.)
- 11 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 12 This is a copy of the return of service
- that was completed by the Boone County Sheriff's
- Office that served you on August 11th that I'd like to
- 15 be Exhibit Two.
- 16 (Doss Exhibit Two marked for
- 17 identification.)
- 18 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 19 And then this is a copy of the green card
- 20 showing receipt of the certified mail subpoena on
- 21 August 16th, 2010.
- 22 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 23 Is this a separate exhibit?
- 24 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 25 Yeah.

- 1 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 2 Okay.
- 3 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 4 Two and ---.
- 5 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 6 Exhibit Three?
- 7 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 8 Two and Three, yeah, please.
- 9 (Exhibit Three marked for
- 10 identification.)
- 11 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 12 Sir, the statute that authorizes the
- Director to subpoena witnesses to appear at interviews
- such as this requires the Director to offer to each
- witness a \$40 a day witness fee plus roundtrip mileage
- from your home to here and back at the rate of 15
- cents a mile, so long as you drove in your personal
- vehicle, plus reimbursement for any tolls that you may
- 19 pass coming here or going back. I spoke briefly with
- 20 you prior to the interview and I believe you stated
- 21 that you would like to fill out those forms after the
- 22 interview?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 ATTORNEY KOERBER:
- 25 Okay. I have those forms with Mr.

- 1 Tucker. If you would get to him --- I mean get with
- 2 him when the interview is completed and fill those
- forms out, he will make sure I get them back and I'll
- 4 get them submitted properly. No other questions.
- 5 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 6 Okay. All members of the Mine Safety and
- 7 Health Accident Investigation Team and all members of
- 8 the State of West Virginia Accident Investigation Team
- 9 participating in the investigation of the Upper Big
- 10 Branch Mine explosion shall keep confidential all
- information that is gathered from each witness who
- 12 provides a statement until the witness statements are
- officially released. MSHA and the State of West
- 14 Virginia shall keep this information confidential so
- 15 that other ongoing enforcement activities are not
- 16 prejudiced or jeopardized by a premature release of
- 17 information. This confidentiality requirement shall
- 18 not preclude investigation team members from sharing
- 19 information with each other or with other law
- 20 enforcement officials. The team members'
- 21 participation in this interview constitutes their
- agreement to keep this information confidential.
- 23 Government investigators and specialists
- have been assigned to investigate the conditions,
- 25 events and circumstances surrounding the fatalities

- 1 that occurred at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South on
- 2 April 5th, 2010. The investigation is being conducted
- 3 by MSHA under Section 103(a) of the Federal Mine
- 4 Safety and Health Act and the West Virginia Office of
- 5 Miners' Health, Safety and Training. We appreciate
- 6 your assistance in this investigation.
- 7 You may have your personal attorney
- 8 present during the taking of this statement or another
- 9 personal representative if MSHA has permitted it and
- 10 may consult with your attorney or the representative
- 11 at any time. You may also request a break at any
- 12 time.
- 13 Your identity and the content of this
- conversation will be made public at the conclusion of
- the interview process and may be included in the
- 16 public report of the accident, unless you request that
- 17 your identity remain confidential or your information
- 18 would otherwise jeopardize a potential criminal
- investigation. If you request us to keep your
- identity confidential, we will do so to the extent
- 21 permitted by law. That means that if a judge orders
- 22 us to reveal your name or if another law requires us
- 23 to reveal your name or if we need to reveal your name
- for other law enforcement purposes, we may do so.
- Also, there may be a need to use the information you

- 1 provide to us or other information we may ask you to
- 2 provide in the future in other investigations into and
- 3 hearings about the explosion. Do you understand?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 6 Do you have any questions?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 9 After the investigation is complete, MSHA
- 10 will issue a public report detailing the nature and
- causes of the fatalities in the hope that greater
- awareness about the causes of accidents can reduce
- their occurrence in the future. Information obtained
- 14 through witness interviews is frequently included in
- these reports. Since we will be interviewing other
- individuals, we request that you not discuss your
- testimony with any person aside from your personal
- 18 representative or counsel.
- 19 A court reporter will record your
- 20 interview. Please speak loudly and clearly. If you
- 21 do not understand a question asked, please ask us to
- 22 rephrase it. Please answer each question as fully as
- 23 you can, including any information you have learned
- 24 from someone else.
- 25 I'd like to thank you in advance for your

- 1 appearance here. We appreciate your assistance in
- 2 this investigation. Your cooperation is critical in
- 3 making the nation's mines safer.
- 4 After we have finished asking questions,
- 5 you will have an opportunity to make a statement and
- 6 provide us with any other information that you believe
- 7 to be important. If at any time after the interview
- 8 you recall any additional information that you believe
- 9 might be useful, please contact Norman Page at MSHA at
- the telephone number or e-mail address provided to
- 11 you.
- 12 Any statements given by miner witnesses
- to MSHA are considered to be an exercise of statutory
- rights and protected activity under Section 105(c) of
- 15 the Mine Act. If you believe any discharge,
- 16 discrimination or other adverse action is taken
- against you as a result of your cooperation with this
- investigation, you are encouraged to immediately
- 19 contact MSHA and file a complaint under Section 105(c)
- of the Act.
- 21 MR. FARLEY:
- 22 Mr. Doss, on behalf of the Office of
- 23 Miners' Health, Safety and Training, I'd like to
- inform you that the West Virginia State Mining
- 25 Regulations also provide protection against potential

- discrimination that might result from participating in
- these type interviews. I'd like to pass along some
- 3 contact information to you from --- for the West
- 4 Virginia Board of Appeals. The board is charged with
- 5 hearing complaints from miners concerning
- 6 discrimination.
- 7 And should you experience any problems,
- 8 you should contact the board immediately. Now, I
- 9 would caution you, if you do have a problem, you need
- to file a complaint within 30 days of whenever it
- 11 occurs; okay?
- 12 EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. SHERER:
- Q. First thing I want to do, Mr. Doss, is thank you
- for coming down there. This is very important to us,
- because we're still trying to determine what led up to
- this explosion, and we're doing that for two reasons.
- One is the families and the friends and the coworkers
- 19 of the victims deserve to know what happened. And the
- other reason is we want to prevent this in the future,
- so anything you share with us is greatly appreciated.
- 22 Roughly, how many years of mining experience do you
- have?
- A. A little over two years.
- Q. Okay. When did you start with the Massey

- 1 organization?
- 2 A. Started with Massey back August ---
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. --- 26th.
- 5 Q. Who'd you work for prior to that?
- 6 A. I worked for David Stanley for three months.
- 7 Q. Okay. When did you first start working at Upper
- 8 Big Branch?
- 9 A. November 11th, 2008.
- 10 Q. Okay. And that was with David Stanley
- 11 Consultants?
- 12 A. No, I was already hired in for Massey from Marsh
- Fork.
- Q. Oh, okay. What was your job description prior to
- 15 the explosion?
- 16 A. Roof bolter.
- 17 Q. Roof bolter. Which section did you work on?
- 18 A. I was working on --- I was working on outby, but
- 19 three months prior to that I was working on One
- 20 section.
- Q. Okay. And One section ---?
- 22 A. Headgate 22.
- 23 Q. Headgate 22. Which shift did you normally work?
- 24 A. Evening shift.
- Q. Evening shift. And you say immediately prior to

- 1 the explosion you were working outby?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Where were you working outby?
- 4 A. I put in a head drive --- well, the Mother Drive
- off of Headgate 22 down towards the Glory Holy.
- 6 Q. Oh, okay.
- 7 A. We put that in. Right after that --- we finished
- 8 it up --- we went down towards the Ellis punch-out
- 9 side 15 breaks in and was cutting out another one to
- 10 set up a belt drive.
- 11 Q. Okay. Who were you working for? Who was your
- boss when you were doing that outby work?
- 13 A. As in boss, you mean supervisor or ---
- 14 O. Sure.
- 15 A. --- the foreman? It was Everett Hager.
- 16 Q. Everett Hager. Was there a foreman assigned to
- 17 that work?
- 18 A. Yes, Marvin Perdue.
- 19 Q. Okay. When you were working on the Mother Drive
- 20 at Headgate 22, what was the ventilation like there?
- 21 A. The ventilation was fine. There really wasn't a
- 22 whole lot of ---. We never even messed with the
- 23 airflow on it.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. They always run it up towards the track entry

- 1 before we even started splitting the blocks.
- Q. Okay. Did you have a --- where'd the return go?
- 3 A. The return was down toward --- come back down the
- 4 track entry.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 A. It was one of them that we got the best airflow
- 7 off of.
- 8 Q. Okay. You guys split a lot of blocks up there,
- 9 didn't you?
- 10 A. Split three blocks up there.
- 11 Q. Yeah. About when did you go from the 22 Headgate
- 12 Mother Drive down to the Ellis Portal?
- 13 A. It was probably --- we was down there probably
- 14 about three weeks.
- 15 Q. Okay. And we understand that you were cutting
- some belts channels and overcasts and things like
- 17 that.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did you have to split any blocks down there?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. Okay. How was that going?
- A. It was going good, no trouble.
- Q. Yeah. What's the last shift you worked prior to
- 24 the explosion?
- 25 A. It was the day that it happened. I was outside at

- 1 3:05.
- Q. Okay. What's the last shift prior to that that
- 3 you were there?
- 4 A. Prior to that was the day --- was that day before,
- 5 April the 4th.
- 6 Q. So it'd be Sunday evening?
- 7 A. It was actually Saturday.
- 8 Q. Okay, Saturday evening.
- 9 A. I'm just saying I really don't count the days off
- 10 as that. I just go back a day.
- 11 Q. Sure, uh-huh (yes). When you were there Saturday
- evening --- I assume you were working near the Ellis
- 13 portal.
- 14 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 15 Q. Did you notice anything unusual?
- 16 A. No, because we come in to really just check out
- what we was doing, and that was just an extra shift
- 18 for me.
- 19 Q. Oh, okay.
- 20 A. The Friday --- I believe it was the weekend that
- 21 we got off. I'm not sure it was a Friday, Saturday
- and Sunday, and that Thursday was the last time that
- we did anything, cutting or moving anything.
- Q. Okay. So Friday and Saturday you were just kind
- of doing dead work?

- 1 A. I didn't come in Friday.
- Q. Oh, you didn't come in Friday.
- 3 A. No, I just come in Saturday just to fix up that
- 4 belt channel.
- 5 Q. Oh, okay.
- 6 A. We just come up to move a few things and that was
- 7 it, just a few hours.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did you do any bolting on Saturday?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. The last time I bolted was that Tuesday.
- 12 Q. Oh, okay.
- 13 A. And that was an overcast across the track.
- Q. Okay. Did they split the track on Saturday? Do
- 15 you recall?
- 16 A. Split the track as in ---?
- 17 O. Or break the track?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Okay.
- 20 A. The track was broke on --- I don't think it was
- 21 broke when I was there.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. I was thinking Thursday, but I believe it was just
- 24 gobbed out.
- 25 Q. Oh, okay.

- 1 A. And we cleaned it out that evening on that day
- 2 before we left.
- Q. Okay. I'd heard from somebody they had to break
- 4 the track.
- 5 A. I don't think we broke the track there. I think
- 6 that was up towards, going in towards North Mains ---
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. --- where they cut out that overcast to get the
- 9 miner up. There was a hill.
- 10 Q. Oh, okay.
- 11 A. They couldn't get the miner up it without breaking
- the track and pulling it back. But they had a mantrip
- on the other side as a --- to get out.
- Q. Sure. Okay. Now, when you were there Saturday
- evening, did you hear anything that was unusual,
- 16 anybody ---
- 17 A. No.
- 19 A. I was there --- it was actually Saturday morning.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. It was earlier in the day. I come in just to help
- 22 out, just to clean up.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. And we was going to set up that belt head, and
- when they left Thursday, they had it set up. All they

- 1 needed to do was put the belt head on.
- Q. Okay.
- 3 A. So we come in to do --- we was stopped on doing
- 4 that, cleaned the track and everything up there.
- 5 Q. Okay. Did you notice anybody unusual coming into
- 6 or going out of the mine?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Okay. You said you bolted some up on the 22
- 9 Headgate.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Which shift did you work when you were doing that?
- 12 A. Evening shift.
- Q. Evening. Who was your boss when you were doing
- 14 that?
- 15 A. It was Rick Hutchens.
- 16 Q. Okay. And he's sometimes known as Smurf?
- 17 A. The Smurf.
- 18 Q. Okay. What did you think about 22 Headgate?
- 19 A. It was all right. It just had low air.
- 20 Q. Did you have trouble getting enough air to bolt?
- 21 A. No, not really. Just sometimes if we would come
- in and we wouldn't have enough air, we'd fix it and
- it'd be fine. Come in the next day, it'd be the same
- thing.
- 25 Q. Okay. What ---?

- 1 A. Just --- go ahead.
- 2 O. Go ahead.
- A. Oh, I was just going to tell you, it's just little
- 4 stuff, and the stoppings, just some cracks and stuff
- 5 like that we sealed up on the way up there.
- 6 Q. Okay. So you just had to go patch up your
- 7 ventilation system?
- 8 A. Yeah, yes. It was probably maybe a couple times
- 9 out of the month we had to do that.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 A. Just little holes where the cables run through or
- some hoses that they wouldn't patch up.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. But any other time it was just rerouting the
- ventilation, just getting it to push harder.
- 16 Q. Okay. When you were bolting on 22 Headgate, did
- 17 you have a methane detector?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. What's the highest methane reading you recall?
- 20 A. On that right there?
- 21 Q. Uh-huh (yes).
- 22 A. It's probably .3.
- Q. Okay. What was the roof and ribs like on 22
- Headgate?
- 25 A. Horrible.

- 1 Q. Horrible. Any ---
- 2 A. Top ---.
- 3 Q. --- particular reason?
- 4 A. Top was stackrock and the ribs kept rolling out.
- 5 Too much pressure on them.
- 6 Q. Did you guys bolt the ribs?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. What size of bolts were you using?
- 9 A. Six-foot torque tensions.
- 10 Q. Good size of bolts. Were you doing any
- 11 supplemental support, like cable bolts or anything?
- 12 A. Yeah, we cable bolted a few places that was
- working, maybe four entries out of the whole panel.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall what length of cable bolts
- 15 you were using?
- 16 A. No, we used the eight-foot cable bolts, and that
- one time we used ten for the center and entry.
- 18 Q. Okay. Did you do any mesh up on the 22 Headgate?
- 19 A. We meshed the whole entire beltline.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. And eight-foot cable bolts on that, six-foot
- 22 torque tensions.
- 23 O. That's a lot of steel.
- 24 A. Took a whole other crew on hoot owl to do it.
- Q. When you were on 22 Headgate, was the floor

- 1 heaving or hooving up there?
- 2 A. No, it just had dips every now and then where the
- 3 bottom cracked apart and they cleaned it up.
- 4 Q. Okay. Just busted through?
- 5 A. Yeah, just busted through, sometimes anywhere from
- 6 six inches to eight inches from trying to tram the
- 7 miner around.
- 8 Q. Okay. Does anything stand out as being unusual
- 9 when you were up on 22 Headgate?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. Did you ever have any occasion to walk down
- 12 through this connector?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. What was the rock dust like through there?
- 15 A. The rock dust on the ribs?
- 16 Q. Or rock dust anywhere.
- 17 A. Oh, anywhere? Rock dust, they always rock dusted
- 18 it, and then ---
- 19 Q. Okay, sure.
- 20 A. --- they done the intake. The last time I was
- there, up on the section, I know they rock dusted it
- 22 twice, the entire intake, now, before Two section
- 23 started.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. And that's on Tailgate 22 that they were starting

- 1 up.
- 2 O. What about float coal dust? Was there ever float
- 3 coal dust on top of the rock dust?
- 4 A. No, not really.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. I mean except for where ---. The only time that
- 7 we ever --- well, it really wasn't coal dust. It was
- 8 actually rock dust where it fell out right there in
- 9 that intake area.
- 10 Q. Uh-huh (yes). Just a big rock fall?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 14 And Erik, you're indicating the rock fall
- in the connector?
- 16 MR. SHERER:
- 17 Yeah, uh-huh (yes). The Number Three
- 18 entry of the connector.
- 19 BY MR. SHERER:
- Q. Did you guys have any doors or other ventilation
- 21 controls that were installed around this Mother Drive
- 22 at the 22 Headgate?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. When you were either on the 22 Headgate
- development or when you were working on this Mother

- 1 Drive, did you hear or feel any unusual thumps or
- 2 bumps?
- 3 A. No.
- Q. Okay. When you were on the 22 Headgate, was there
- 5 much bubbling in the water holes and puddles?
- 6 A. No, not a whole lot. There was a couple spots up
- 7 against the rib, but it wasn't reading anything.
- 8 Q. Okay. Were you ever near a mine phone or possibly
- 9 somebody come up and told you --- did you ever get any
- 10 notification that inspectors were on the property?
- 11 A. I didn't know until they come up and talked to us.
- 12 Q. Oh, okay.
- 13 A. And when we was on Headgate 22 and the Mother
- Drive, we didn't --- we had no clue.
- 15 Q. Okay. Do you think the ventilation in this mine
- 16 was adequate?
- 17 A. No.
- Q. Could you give me some examples of why you don't
- 19 think that?
- 20 A. Split the air too many times.
- 21 Q. What did you think about all the track doors they
- 22 had in this mine?
- 23 A. Didn't like it.
- Q. You ever come up on those and find any of them
- 25 open?

- 1 A. No. One was damaged one time.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. But it would still shut.
- 4 Q. Okay. Why didn't you like them?
- 5 A. Just it was the wrong way of ventilating.
- 6 Should've been an overcast overtop of the belt.
- 7 Q. Sure.
- 8 A. Air --- you know, air leaks through the door.
- 9 Q. Uh-huh (yes). Did you ever hear anybody talking
- 10 about bridging out methane monitors?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Okay. Ever see anybody bridging out a methane
- 13 monitor?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 MR. SHERER:
- 16 Okay. That's all the questions I've got
- 17 for right now.
- 18 EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. FARLEY:
- 20 O. Mr. Doss?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. When the top was being cut at the belt drive
- location close to Ellis, which way did the dust
- 24 travel?
- 25 A. We traveled it down to the return on the North

- 1 Mains side. That's the way it was cut. It would go
- 2 down ---
- Q. Okay.
- 4 A. --- and come back.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, was that on April 5th, the way it was
- 6 going on April 5th?
- 7 A. No, I think it was fixed, then. The reason why I
- 8 say fixed is because they --- well, we didn't go over
- 9 into the North Mains side until after we cut it out.
- 10 And then once they started on cutting overcasts out
- above the track, the air was going down and out.
- 12 Q. But were you there on April 5th?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Okay. And which way was it going on April 5th?
- 15 A. The return from the ---. Where we cut it out for
- the beltline, that was no longer used. It was
- actually in the Number Four entry, and it went from
- 18 Number Four all the way over and down the old return.
- 19 Q. Okay. So were you there all day on April the 5th?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, were you around the mining machine to
- 22 see this?
- 23 A. Not as the one that they were cutting out the
- overcast. We was already done setting up the belt on
- 25 April 5th.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. We had another crew that was cutting out for an
- 3 overcast and you know, fixing stoppings.
- 4 Q. Okay. But did you actually observe the mining
- 5 machine cut?
- 6 A. No, I did not observe it.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. I was five breaks away from that.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. I'm going outby.
- 11 Q. You were outby it?
- 12 A. Outby it.
- 13 Q. Okay. So you wouldn't actually have been able to
- see which way the dust was going?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Okay. Were you around there on Saturday, April
- 3rd, when that area --- when that roof was being cut
- in that area?
- 19 A. No, they did not cut it out then. They started it
- 20 on ---. They did. They started on that Thursday and
- 21 had it bolted. I was up around there to clean that
- 22 track up. We went up and just traveled the air ---
- and traveled up the track and back down, check
- everything.
- Q. Okay. Now, did you actually observe any cut into

- 1 the roof ---
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. --- at that point?
- 4 A. No.
- Q. Okay.
- 6 A. I come up on the other entry. We went up and went
- 7 through the doors, went down and checked out the power
- 8 center we put in that they were supposed to have
- 9 hooked up for us to set a pump.
- 10 Q. Okay. So you didn't actually observe the miner
- 11 cutting ---
- 12 A. No, I did not observe the miner cutting.
- 13 Q. --- any time?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. All right. I got you. On Saturday, April the
- 3rd, what time did you leave the mine that day?
- 17 A. It was around 11 o'clock.
- 18 O. P.M.?
- 19 A. A.M.
- 20 O. A.M.?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Okay. Who was around the mine that day, outside?
- 23 A. Outside there was a fire boss and there was a guy
- come in at eight o'clock to come up and help me.
- Q. Okay. All right. Was a general mine foreman or

- 1 superintendent around?
- 2 A. We had just a foreman up there and the
- 3 superintendent was up there that day with the fire
- 4 bosses, checking the books.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, would that have been Mr. Moore and Mr.
- 6 Hager?
- 7 A. Yeah, Mr. Moore.
- 8 MR. FARLEY:
- 9 Okay.
- 10 MS. SPENCE:
- 11 I don't have anything.
- 12 RE-EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. SHERER:
- 14 Q. I have one additional question.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. When you were working on the 22 Headgate ---
- 17 A. Uh-huh (yes).
- 18 Q. --- end of the shift, maybe later on after you got
- 19 back home, did you feel unusually tired or exhausted?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 MR. SHERER:
- 22 Okay. Thank you.
- 23 ATTORNEY BAXTER:
- 24 Okay. On behalf of MSHA and the Office
- of Miners' Health, Safety and Training I want to thank

1 you for appearing and answering questions today. 2 cooperation is very important to the investigation as 3 we work to determine the cause of the accident. request that you not discuss your testimony with any 4 5 person aside from your personal representative. questioning other witnesses, we may call you if we 6 7 have any follow-up questions. If at any time you have additional information regarding the accident that you would like to provide to us, please contact us at the 9 contact information that was previously provided to 10 11 you. 12 If you wish, you may now go back over any answer you've given during this interview, and you may 13 also make any statement that you'd like to make at 14 15 this time. A. No. 16 17 ATTORNEY BAXTER: Okay. Again, I want to thank you for 18 19 your cooperation in this matter. 20 21 STATEMENT UNDER OATH CONCLUDED AT 1:37 P.M. 22 23 24

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