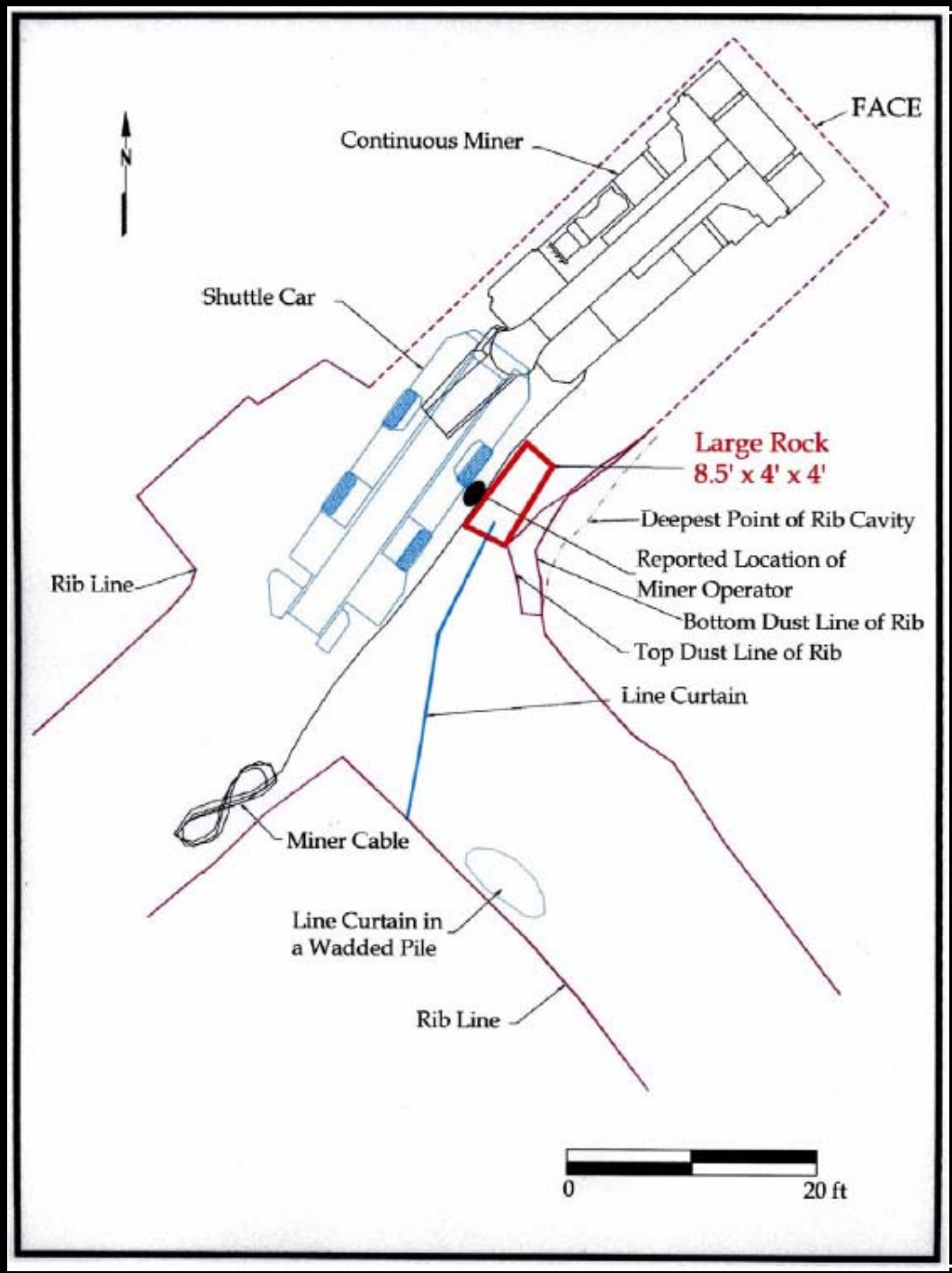
*This presentation is for illustrative and **general** educational purposes only and is not intended to substitute for the official MSHA Investigation Report analysis nor is it intended to provide the sole foundation, if any, for any related enforcement actions.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2006-41

Operator:	Kingwood Mining Company LLC
Mine:	Whitetail Kittanning Mine
Accident Date:	October 20, 2006
Classification:	Fall of Face, Rib, Pillar, or Highwall
Location:	Dist. 3, Preston County, West Virginia
Mine Type:	Underground Coal Mine
Employment:	285
Production:	12,000 Tons/Day

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



On October 20, 2006, at approximately 2:20 p.m., a 49 year old continuous mining machine operator, was fatally injured when he was struck by a rib roll and pinned against a shuttle car. The accident occurred as the victim was using the remotely controlled continuous miner to clean up the second cut in the number 40 crosscut between the number 5 and 6 entries on the East Section. The fallen coal-rock rib measured approximately 8 ½ feet long, 4 feet high and 4 feet thick. The height in the area of the accident is approximately 102 inches from the mine floor to the existing mine roof.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Root Cause: Standards, policies or administrative controls were not in place to identify and address corrective action for the hazard which caused the fatality. This was primarily due to the fact that the geologic features identified did not project beyond the accident site. Although similar geologic features were identified by an experienced engineer/geologist within a 1500 foot traverse of the face area, these conditions would have been difficult to recognize without additional specialized training.

Corrective Action: Requisite examinations of the section were conducted which did not detect the slickensided planes. The planes were most likely not recognized due to the condition being isolated. Management has instituted policies providing hazard recognition training of angle slip planes to all underground examiners and employees and if these conditions are found they are to be removed or controlled.

BEST PRACTICES

- Conduct thorough preshift, onshift and workplace examinations to identify hazards involving roof or coal ribs.
- Always pull down or support coal ribs that are unstable.
- Train miners to identify slip planes and other unsafe conditions pertaining to coal ribs.
- Always be alert for geological changes so that slip planes, kettle bottoms, horsebacks, or slicken sides can be detected.