



## **January 29, 2003 - Summary of a Non-Fatal Surge-Pile Accident, at Big Ridge, Inc., Willow Lake Central Preparation Plant, Saline County, IL.**

This incident occurred as a Caterpillar D9R bulldozer was working on the mine's raw coal stockpile. The No.3 and No. 4 feeders were feeding coal to the preparation plant at the time of the incident. The plant operator noticed very little feed coming from the No. 4 feeder and decided to increase the feed rate from the No. 3 feeder. As the dozer operator was pushing coal away from the stacker to create more storage space, the dozer fell backwards into the void located above the stockpile's No. 4 feeder. The bulldozer came to rest with its blade pointing upward, coal in its cab, and its back glass broken out. After opening the door and climbing out of the cab, the bulldozer operator contacted the plant operator, and subsequently, the feeders were shutdown. Another bulldozer operator dug around the trapped machine for over an hour before the trapped bulldozer could be driven out. No injuries resulted from this incident, but the bulldozer received damage to the cab, a broken light, and a broken rear windshield.