



## **June 30, 2004 - Summary of a Non-Fatal Surge-Pile Accident at Marfork Coal Company's Marfork Processing Plant, Raleigh County, West Virginia.**

In this accident, a Caterpillar D9 bulldozer fell into a void over the "Recip" feeder at the No. 5 clean coal stacker. Three feeders were running at the No. 5 Stacker at the time. The crew knew that a cavity had developed based on a drop in the belt-scale readings and the observation that the coal over the No. 5 "Recip" feeder was not drawing down. While pushing coal to the adjacent 5B feeder and attempting to side cut the cavity area, the D9 dozer got too close to the bridged-over feeder and broke through into the cavity. The D9 ended up in a near-vertical position, with the blade pointing upward. The dozer operator was not injured. An excavator and two D10 dozers dug the trapped dozer out approximately two hours and twenty minutes later.

All of MSHA's Best Practices and the West Virginia's Surge Pile requirements were in place at the time. A Massey "submarine" system was used to lend additional support to the windows.