

Woman Who Sued to Get Job Dies in Mine

OSCEOLA MILLS, Pa. (AP) — A central Pennsylvania woman who filed a sex discrimination suit to get her job as a coal miner became the first U.S. woman killed in an underground mine accident, officials said.

Marilyn McCusker, 35, of Conport, died of asphyxiation and shock Tuesday after a rock ceiling collapsed in a shaft of a Rushton Mining Co. mine near this Centre County community, deputy coroner Robert Trump said.

Walter Vicinelly, commissioner of Pennsylvania's office of deep mine safety, said Ms. McCusker is only the second woman ever killed in a U.S. coal mining accident. The first was several years ago at a Kentucky surface mine operation, he said.

Ms. McCusker was one of four women who filed suit in federal court two years ago, saying Rushton Mining illegally bypassed them for jobs. All four women got jobs.