

# Sex-bias suit winner mine cave-in victim

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 McCuster, 35, of Coalport, 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. McCuster 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. McCuster was one of four women who filed suit in federal court two years ago, saying Rushton Mining illegally bypassed them for jobs, Centre County Judge Richard Sharp said Wednesday night. All four women got jobs, he said.

Ms. McCuster, a roof bolter's helper, was pronounced dead on arrival at nearby Philipsburg State General Hospital, Trump said.