



Correspondence

DATED

January 21, 1907 - March 26, 1907

Dering Mine #7

Jan. 21, 1907

Mr. Jas. Taylor,
State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am sending by accompanying mail a blue print showing the holes in No. 3 Room, Ninth West, in Dering Coal Company's No. 7 mine, Clinton, Ind. Also blue print of sketch of entries 9 and 10 of same mine, from my remembrance, and therefore is subject to revision. I was not able to send these Saturday as I was in conference most all of the day.

I am in hopes that the local Dering officials will act promptly in getting us maps of this portion of their mine from actual surveys.

I am also sending by accompanying mail a blue print map of the Cardiff mine from recent survey. As soon as my assistant can get around to it, I want him to make a new tracing which will be more presentable than the old one. When it is made I will send you a copy of same.

Yours very truly,

C.

P. S. Owing to conference again today, could not finish the sketch maps. Will send without fail tomorrow.

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. R. R. Hammond, President,
Dering Coal Co.,
Old Colony Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith one blue print copy of sketch map of scene of explosion in your No. 7 Mine. Pending the completion of the survey now being made, this may be of interest to you. I am sending one by accompanying mail to Mr. Smith.

If you desire any more copies, I will be glad to furnish them.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Clinton

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Sec'y.,

Illinois Coal Operators Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

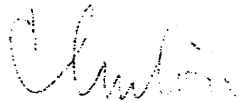
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose copy of sketch map relating to Dering mine No. 7, for your information.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton".

Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. Jas. Taylor,
State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir.

I enclose herewith three blue print copies of the maps relating to the explosion in Mine No. 7 of the Dering Coal Co. One point has arisen which was overlooked on Friday, namely, the condition of the top of the box found in the middle cross-out of the 10th west. The top of this box, as you will recall, was thrown against the brattice over in the corner. As on the previous day I had worked on the theory that it was a blown out shot in No. 3 room that caused the trouble, I did not examine this cover so carefully, but if the cover was still padlocked to the top of the box, and if there was no crack or opening in the top of the box, it would look as if the seat of the trouble could not be in the box, but external to it. Another blown out keg was found in this vicinity, but I do not know the precise locality. Can you give me any information about this, or about the padlocked box?

Fortunately, before I left Clinton I suggested to Mr. Smith that he should secure the box as an exhibit. I have today wired to him asking about the padlocked box, but have not yet had reply.

Yours truly,

I.

Clinton

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. S. K. Smith, Division Manager,
Dering Coal Company,
Terre Haute, Ind.

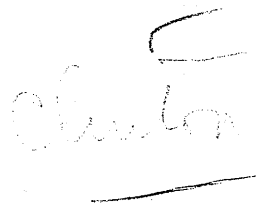
Dear Sir:

If I recall correctly, a second blown out powder keg was found in the vicinity of the little cross-cut of the 10th west. The location of the powder kegs was chalked on the cans, and I believe that in addition you also had a record. Will you please inform me the exact location of the four or five blown out kegs found.

I enclose herewith two copies of a sketch map of the 9th and 10th west, which may be of service to you pending the completion of your survey. I will be obliged if you will go over same carefully and let me know if there is anything wrong, marking on one of the prints what is incorrect and returning to me.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Jan. 23, 1907.

District Forecaster,
U. S. Weather Bureau,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

For purposes of investigation into the cause of the recent mine explosion near Clinton, Ind., I should like to obtain a record of the barometric readings covering the following period; from Saturday, Jan. 12th, to Jan. 18th, inclusive. If possible, I should like this by hourly periods. If this cannot be provided, I should like to have the readings on Jan. 14th, from 6 A. M., to 12 P. M., and on Wednesday, Jan. 16th, between 10 A. M., and 3 P. M., and on Jan. 18th between 10 A. M., and 3 P. M. As stated previously, I should like to have it consecutively from Jan. 12th to 18th. The explosion occurred at 6:40 A. M., Jan. 14th. If there is any weather bureau station nearer to Clinton than Indianapolis, I should prefer the records from the nearest station.

I trust you will see your way to giving me this information, and as promptly as possible, as the matter is of importance.

Yours very respectfully,

I.

*Spcl file
Clinton Accident Case*

ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS MUTUAL EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
INSURANCE COMPANY

1312 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6176

CHICAGO, ILL.. January 23, 1907.

Mr. Geo. S. Rice,
734 The Rookery,
Chicago.

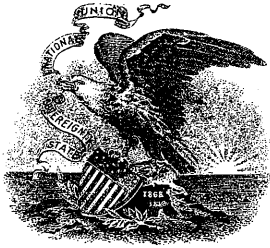
Dear Sir :

Your favor of the 22nd, enclosing copies of sketch maps relating
to accident at Dering Mine No. 7 at hand.

Thanking you for same, I am,

Respectfully,


Secretary.



Mine Inspection Service

STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Peoria ————— *Jan 23, 07.* ————— *190* —————

Mr. G. S. Rice,
Supt, C. C. Co,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:-

The top of the box in the second or middle cross-cut in the 10 West was very badly broken, but as to the condition of the padlock, you will remember I was not so sure, and you then requested Mr. Smith to make sure and secure this box.

I picked up the second keg that had been exploded outward, at the cross-cut between the Main South entry, and and the Main South air-course; the keg was nearer to the Main air-course than the Main entry, and it was in a direct *line* with the 10 West entry, as indicated on the enclosed sketch thus-~~x~~.

Yours truly;

James Taylor

L.R.14, 1907.

(L.M.D.)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Climatological Service of the Weather Bureau

INDIANA SECTION

INDIANAPOLIS

January 24, 1907.

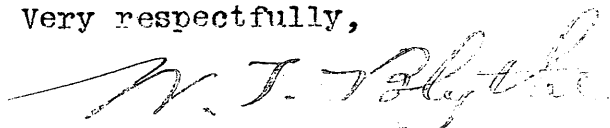
Mr. Geo. S. Rice,
The Rookery,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, dated January 23, 1907, I take pleasure in handing you herewith a tabulated statement showing the atmospheric pressure at this station for each hour on January 12, 1907, to January 18, 1907, inclusive.

This is the nearest Weather Bureau station to Clinton, Ind. at which barometer readings are recorded.

Very respectfully,


Section Director.

(1 Inclosure)

Barograph Record (Station Pressure, i.e., Barometer Readings Corrected for Temperature but not for Elevation) at Indianapolis, Ind., January 12 to 18, inclusive, 1907.

		<i>A.M.</i>												<i>P.M.</i>														
<i>1907.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>			
<i>Jan</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>28.73</i>	<i>29.01</i>	<i>29.02</i>	<i>29.04</i>	<i>29.08</i>	<i>29.12</i>	<i>29.14</i>	<i>29.15</i>	<i>29.17</i>	<i>29.18</i>	<i>29.22</i>	<i>29.20</i>	<i>29.20</i>		
"	<i>13</i>	<i>29.22</i>	<i>29.22</i>	<i>29.21</i>	<i>29.20</i>	<i>29.21</i>	<i>29.21</i>	<i>29.25</i>	<i>29.25</i>	<i>29.25</i>	<i>29.25</i>	<i>29.24</i>	<i>29.24</i>	<i>29.20</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>			
"	<i>14</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>22</i>			
"	<i>15</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>35</i>			
"	<i>16</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>16</i>			
"	<i>17</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>			
"	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>02</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>97</i>

Chicago, Jan. 24, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Secretary,

Ill. Coal Operators Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith copy of letter sent to Mr. S. K. Smith Jan. 22nd. I have not yet had reply, but I presume Mr. Smith has been extremely busy. In corresponding with Mr. Jas. Taylor, he states that he did not observe about the padlock in the box mentioned, and is relying on the suggestion I made to Mr. Smith in his presence, asking that he take possession of the box as an exhibit. Mr. Taylor writes that the second powder can he picked up and which was exploded outwardly, was near the mouth of the Tenth West, between the First Cross-cut and the Main South. This would have been "outside" of where the two men were found, and about fifty feet "outside" of the cross-cut where the powder box and other exploded keg were found. In the event that the padlock is still on the box and the top was tight, we will have to look to this exploded can picked up by Mr. Taylor as being the source of the explosion, theorizing that it was carried to the point where he found it either by one of the visitors after the explosion, or else by the current of the gases resulting from the explosion subsequent to the blowing up of the keg itself. There does not appear to be anything to locate where this can came from, therefore, the evidence regarding it is very unsatisfactory. As you suggested yes-

E. T. B.

terday, your defense will have to be constructed to embrace as causes either the explosion of one of the kegs in the Tenth West, or the possibility of the blown out shot in Room Three, Ninth West.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. R. R. Hammond, President,
Dering Coal Company,
Old Colony Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith a blue print of the scene of No. 7 Mine accident, at Clinton, Ind., which has been revised from some information obtained through your Mr. Smith.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Sec'y.,

Illinois Coal Oprs. Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith two copies of a report, which I rather hurriedly made up this afternoon, with the expectation that it might be used in connection with Mr. Epperson. Mr. Traer informs me that you do not expect to give him such written reports at the present time at least. I have of course given another copy of this report to Mr. Traer. My detailed report covering all my notes will be ready until Monday. The chief value of it will be to preserve the records. The report I am sending herewith embraces my ideas of the explosion.

I am enclosing herewith two blue print copies of the map which I prepared a few days ago, which has been revised from some information about the tracks, doors, etc., obtained for me by Mr. Smith. The most important information that Mr. Smith gave is with reference to the broken box in the middle cross-cut being still padlocked. You will note I have explained about this in the accompanying report.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. S. K. Smith, Division Mgr.,
Dering Coal Company,
Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a copy of revised map.
If you wish other copies, please let me know.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS MUTUAL EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
INSURANCE COMPANY

1312 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6176

CHICAGO, ILL.. Jan. 26th 1907

Mr. Geo. S. Rice,

734 Rookery, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir :

I have your favor of the 25th inst with various enclosures
as stated which are favorable. I await with interest your full
report.

Yours truly,

E. T. Bent

Chicago, Jan. 26, 1907.

Mr. W. T. Blythe, Section Director,
United States Weather Bureau,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 24th, with enclosed tabulated statement of atmospheric pressure from Jan. 12th to 18th inclusive.

This is just what I desire, and I thank you very much for your trouble.

Yours very respectfully,

I.

Chicago, Jan. 26, 1907.

Mr. Jas. Taylor, State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith a blue print of the map which I prepared a few days ago of the scene of the accident at Dering No. 7 Mine, at Clinton, Ind. This map has been revised from some information about the tracks, doors, etc., obtained for me by Mr. S. K. Smith.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

DERING COAL COMPANY

OPERA HOUSE BLOCK

GENERAL OFFICES:
OLD COLONY BUILDING
CHICAGO

TERRE HAUTE, IND. 2/8/07.

Mr. George S. Rice, Mining Engineer,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your request to me to find out where the man who was blown to pieces in the explosion at our #7 Mine, at Clinton, was going at the time of the explosion:

He was going from the 1st room on the 8th west into the 9th west entry to turn a room there.

Very truly yours,



District Manager.

SKS-LM

March 26th, 07.

Mr. E. T. Bent,
1st Nat'l. Bank Bldg.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you herewith two copies of my detailed report on the explosion at the #7 Mine of the Dering Coal Co., near Clinton, Indiana. In this report I have recorded all my notations made in the mine in a way to preserve them in form, so that they can be used by your lawyers if necessary. I would like, however, to call your attention to the last two pages embracing my conclusion.

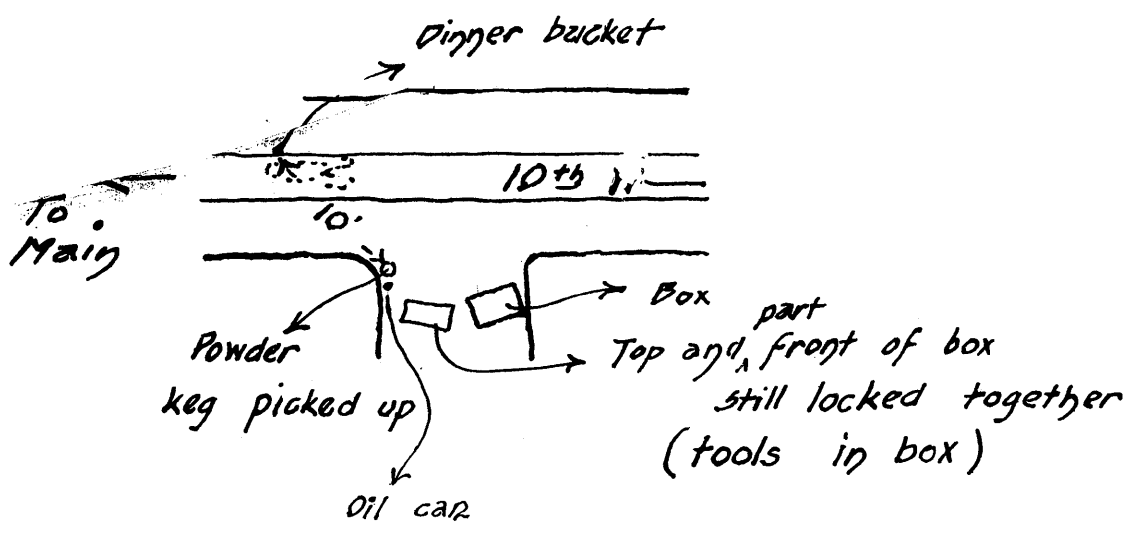
Regarding the preliminary report which I made you on Jan. 25th. Mr. Jenkins has asked if he shall furnish a copy of same to Mr. S. K. Smith, District Manager of the Dering Coal Co., which report should be furnished you are a better judge than I.

I note in looking over my report of Jan. 25th, there are one or two typographical errors. Page two, third line, there should be the word (and) introducing "Main South" (and) "Air Course" In the twelfth line from the bottom of the page, insert the word (powder) between "exploded" (and) "can". On the third page, tenth line from the top, the word "and" between "Jan. 16th" (and) "two days", should be omitted. In the eighth line from the bottom the wording within the parenthesis signs should be (Miners 11 and 12 East).

Yours sincerely,

— Location of Powder Keg — ^{From mine office}

- 1- Keg, flattened out, picked up in main Entry about halfway bet. 6" & 7" w.
- 1 Exploded Keg picked up in 2nd C.C. between 9" & 10" West, 18" from oil can.
Charred paper picked up on N. side of Car in cut-off
Another charred paper picked up in cut-off where original keg, one that started explosion, was exploded
- 1- Exploded Keg picked up in main ~~air~~ Course near where man was found.
- 1- Keg, blown to partial fragments, edges of can very ragged, picked up in main Entry at cut-off that goes from Main Air Course to 7" & 8" West, close to man who had top of head blown off.
- 1- Keg blown open with powder in^d another with paper cork men picked up in 10" w, between 1st C.C. and main Entry



DERING COAL CO.

MINE No.

190

DAILY TIME SHEET AND REPORT

TIME PRICE

noted of powder box which had top of front broken
 whether was padlock open or unlocked. Cannot tell
 whether there was any crack in top which would allow
 of a spark getting inside ^{as metal} ^{tools still in box}
 does cross cuts are right as shown on your blue
 print.

The track in the 9 East goes straight through into main
 south

Some changes will have to be made on your
 blue prints & will have to get the exact locations of
 powder keys before same can be accurately shown
 on the prints

