

DISTRICT 2 Working Template
AUGER MINING PLANS

1. Company name & address:

2. Telephone number: _____ - _____ - _____
 Fax number: _____ - _____ - _____
 Email address: _____

3. (a) Mine name _____
 (b) **MSHA** Legal ID No. _____
 (c) County _____ State _____
 (d) Pit Number _____ Location _____
 (e) **Surface operation Mine Name** _____
 (f) **Surface operation MSHA ID No.** _____
 (g) **Surface operation Pit No.** _____

4. Officer in charge of health and safety:

(Name) (Title)

5. (a) Typical columnar section of the strata including the coal seam(s) to be mined.

(a1) **Will comply with surface operator's (MSHA ID & PIT NO. Ground Control Plan.** _____

- (b) List coal seam(s) to be mined and seam thickness.

Name	Thickness
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. List of each piece of equipment used in pits, on highwalls, and spoil banks, including highwall drills used on the mine site.

Serial Number	Manufacturer	Model
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

7. Attach an engineered drawing(s) showing auger mining sequence, drill hole diameter, mining web spacing, and maximum depth of hole. (See Attached)
8. Barrier distance between active UG Mine and Auger Hole:
- (a) Distance in Feet: _____
- (b) Not Applicable: _____
9. The following information must be provided and verified where any Auger holes is projected to be drilled to within 1000 feet of an Active or Inactive UG Mine containing a body of water that is sufficiently large to constitute a hazard to miners:
- (a) The water elevation (MSL) of the UG Mine:

- (b) Pit Elevation (MSL) where Augering is conducted:

- (c) Safety Zone that will be maintained between inby end of auger hole and UG mine: _____ Feet
- (d) Not Applicable: _____
10. Diversion ditches and/or sediment ditches will be used to control surface water and shown on plans.
11. Any highwall that is determined to be unsafe will not be mined until it is made safe. Prior to mining an area the following precautions may be used to increase the safety of our employees. Any or all of these precautions may be used but not limited to:

- A. Skip the area in question of any auger mining.
 - B. Scale the wall.
 - C. Refigure the wall.
12. If a hazardous condition develops on the highwall, the hazardous area will be posted with danger signs and barricaded against unauthorized entry until the condition is corrected.
13. In the event of an unplanned breakdown or similar circumstance that requires a person to perform duties near the highwall, he will first observe the highwall for hazardous conditions. Any hazardous condition observed will be immediately reported to the foreman and corrected before any person enters an area of exposure. If no hazardous conditions are observed, a person will be positioned as far as practical from the highwall to monitor the highwall conditions while work continues in a normal manner until repairs are completed. **Direct communication with monitor and person(s) performing duties near highwall will be established and maintained at all times.**
14. Auger mining will not be started in a location where a clay vein enters the highwall face. Areas where the clay vein runs in a direction parallel to the highwall face, (that is, the clay vein will be observed running into the highwall and then back out), the area between the entry and exit points will be skipped.
15. A record of the direction of mining and depth of each hole will be made available to MSHA.
14. Any gas well detected within an augering panel, will have a 200 foot barrier around it.
15. Dangerous quantities of methane is **1.0 % or greater %**. **Deficient air (Oxygen) is 19.5 % or less %**.
16. Prior to starting auger operations, after lunch time, after any down-time, and/or every 4 working hours, **tests for methane and**

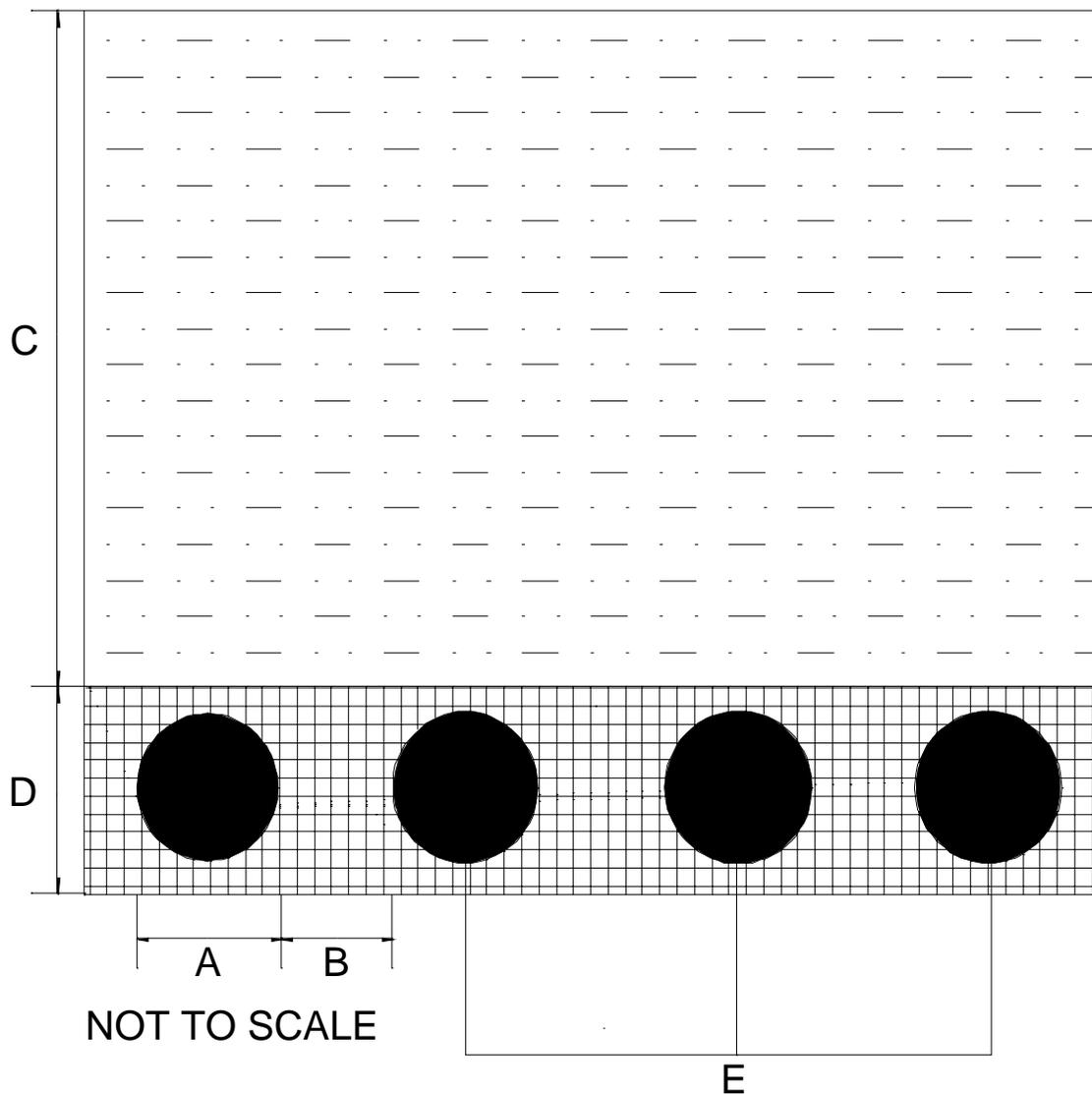
oxygen deficiency **shall be made at the collar of the hole** by a qualified person using devices approved by the Secretary to determine if dangerous quantities of methane or oxygen-deficient air are present or being emitted. If such is found no further work shall be performed until the atmosphere has been made safe.

17. When dangerous quantities of methane and/or deficient air is detected, auger mining operations shall cease and the operator shall immediately contact the MSHA office having jurisdiction over the mine.
18. Tests for methane shall be made using a methane detector approved by the Secretary. All methane examinations will be recorded in the examination book maintained by the supervisor, along with necessary explanations. Methane and oxygen detectors shall be kept on the job site during mining operations, maintained in permissible conditions, and shall be calibrated at least once every 31 days using manufacturer's test apparatus. The results of these tests shall be recorded in a book kept at the mine office.
19. Care will be taken to avoid interconnecting auger holes or narrowing of webs. If an adjacent hole is breached, mining will be discontinued and the auger will be moved to the next projected opening.
20. Care will be taken to avoid mining auger holes completely through narrow ridges and points and to avoid interconnecting holes on both sides of the ridge or point.
21. The web thickness between auger holes will be _____.
22. The local MSHA field office will be notified at least five days prior to each auger mining setup.
23. When drilling, blasting, or other work is performed where it may affect conditions at auger pits, an examination of the auger pit will be conducted by a certified person and the results recorded

in a book approved by the Secretary.

24. . A safe means of access to the auger area will be made and maintained at all times. The auger crew and truck drivers removing auger coal to the stock pile area will receive proper training concerning auger operations.
25. At the end of each working shift all open accessible auger holes will be blocked with suitable material.
- 26.. Auger mining will be permitted only where highwall and spoil bank stability ensures safe working conditions. A bench at least 20 feet wide shall be provided above the pit floor at a distance suitable to the conditions existing using good engineering practices. The 20 feet wide bench shall be competent to with stand the Force of Impact from a 12” rock. (See Ground Control Guidelines, Rock Fall Potential, Table 1.)

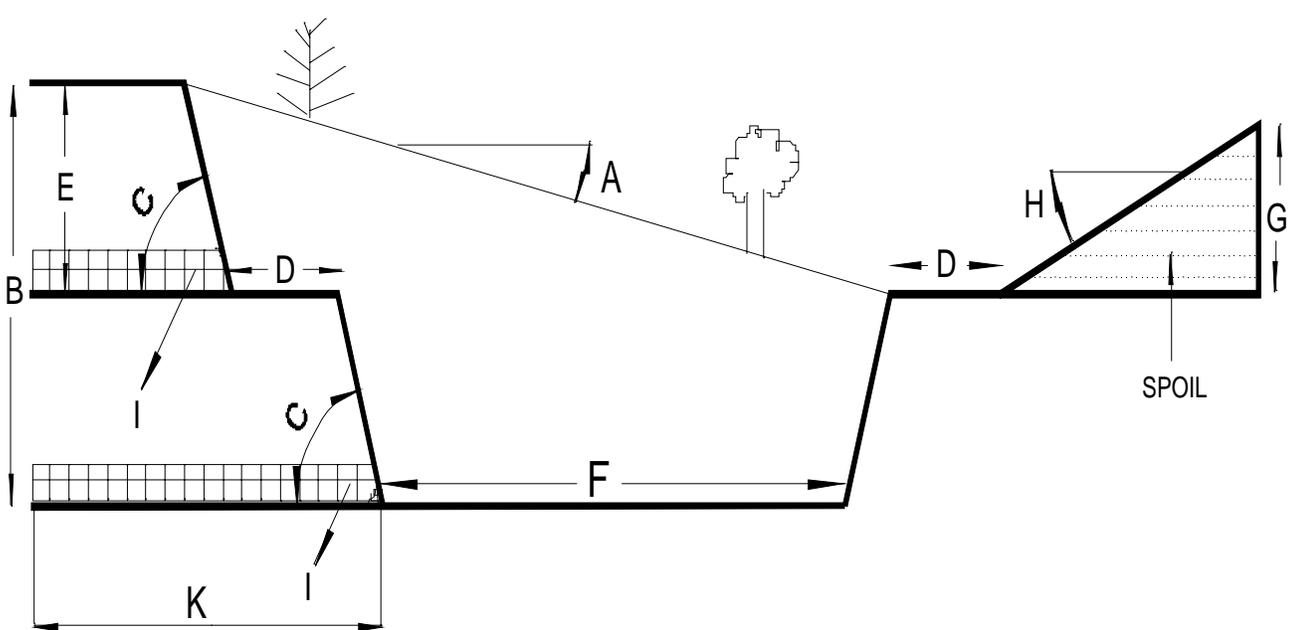
ATTACHMENTS



Auger Mining

Pit and Highwall Information

- A. Diameter of auger holes _____.
- B. Minimum width of web _____.
- C. Maximum thickness of overburden _____.
- D. Coal seam height _____.
- E. Sequence of auger mining. (Mirror image may apply). _____.
- F. Maximum depth of auger holes _____.



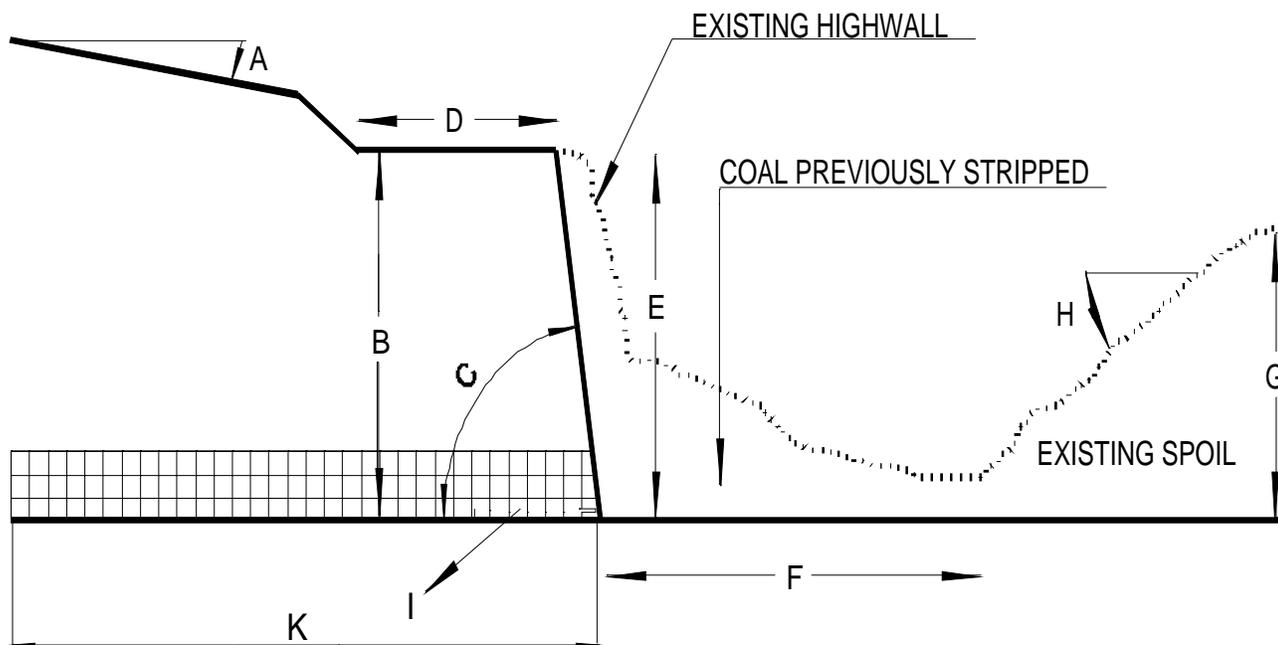
NOT TO SCALE

Auger Mining

Pit and Highwall Information

- A. Slope of ground to be mined _____.
- B. Maximum highwall height _____.
- C. Highwall slope _____.
- D. Width of highwall benches _____.
- E. Spacing of benches for safe control of the highwall _____.
- F. Minimum pit width _____.
- G. Maximum height of deposited soil _____.
- H. Maximum angle of deposited spoil _____.
- I. Name of coal seam to be mined _____.
- J. Description of methods and equipment used to scale and maintain highwall _____

_____.
- K. Maximum depth of auger holes _____.



NOT TO SCALE

Auger Mining

Pit and Highwall Information

- A. Slope of ground to be mined _____.
- B. Maximum highwall height _____.
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- I. Name of coal seam to be mined _____.
- J. Description of methods and equipment used to scale and maintain highwall _____

 _____.
- K. Maximum depth of auger holes _____.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/16/06

EXPIRATION
DATE: 03/31/08
(Reissue of I03-III-1)

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION LETTER NO. I06-III-1

FROM: RAY McKINNEY
Administrator for
Coal Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: MSHA Procedures for Assigning Legal Identity Numbers
and Relocation
Notices at Auger and Highwall Mining Operations

Scope

This procedure instruction letter applies to all Coal Mine Safety and Health (CMS&H) enforcement personnel.

Purpose

The purpose of this instruction letter is to establish uniform procedures for application of the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) regulations to portable auger and highwall coal mining operations. These types of mining operations are subject to requirements applicable to a mine operator. Because these types of mining operations routinely move from location to location, uniform application of MSHA's enforcement scheme is difficult. A new method of assigning permanent identification numbers to each machine owned by a contract operator will eliminate the need to reassign numbers each time a machine is moved to a different location within a MSHA district or to another location in a different MSHA district.

With this identification method, MSHA can track the location of the equipment and establish an enforcement and accident history that follows the equipment wherever it goes. This procedure will simplify compliance while protecting the health and safety of the miners. This procedure will further provide for portability of training and mining plans from district to district and a means to track inspections, health sampling and accident history. It will also set out

procedures to transfer approved or accepted plans from district to district and eliminate the need for operators to resubmit these plans as equipment is moved.

Procedure Instruction

MSHA will assign each mobile auger and highwall miner a seven-digit mine identification number. This identification number is to be tied to a machine serial number and will remain with the specific equipment wherever it goes until it is retired from service or sold to another party. Contractors who own several machines will receive a different identification number for each machine because these machines generally work independently and at separate locations. This permanent ID number assignment will provide a means to track inspection activity, enforcement history, civil penalty assessments, and accident and injury reporting. These identification numbers will be assigned when the required Notification of Legal Identity is filed either by direct on-line completion of the form on the MSHA website or submission of the form to the appropriate District Manager. The MSHA district in which the portable mining unit will first operate will complete a Mine Identification Request form to secure an identification number through the MSHA Standardized Information System (MSIS). In addition, a Mine Information Sheet will be completed by an MSHA authorized representative for each portable mining operation.

Some surface mine operators use auger and highwall mining machines to produce coal as an integral part of their mining cycle. Since these machines remain at the same mine, they are not subject to the identification number assignment as described here. These augers and highwall miners will operate under the same mine identification number as the surface mining operations.

Many auger and highwall operations move between locations and often switch between an active and an idle status. When these changes occur, the operator shall notify the appropriate MSHA District(s) of every new operating location in a timely fashion by the submittal of an updated Legal Identity Report and revised ground control plan. Such location and address changes, however, cannot be considered an operational status change that must meet the requirements of 30 CFR 71.208 and 71.220 (notification within 3 days) unless that entity has a Designated Work Position (DWP) being sampled for respirable dust concentrations. Where the operator fails to notify MSHA of an impending change in location, MSHA inspection personnel, from the current district, shall notify the MSHA District to which the unit is relocating, if known, or notify CMS&H headquarters if an operation has relocated without prior notice to an unknown location. When one MSHA District is able to notify another of the relocation (by e-mail or other written notification), the notification is to be followed by the transmittal of copies of the complete mine file and the uniform mine file within 15 working days.

Special attention is to be given to any outstanding enforcement actions by providing immediate e-mail or facsimile notification to the receiving district of the move and of the termination of any outstanding citations or orders. The procedure for handling outstanding citations and orders is in the Citation and Order Writing Handbook for Coal Mines and Metal and Nonmetal Mines, Handbook Number PH 02-I-7(2).

In addition, each portable auger or highwall miner operation is to establish and follow a suitable ground control plan. The plan should address specific mine conditions as well as most generic situations. The operator should update the plan to each new location and file the update with the new location's MSHA District Manager per 30 CFR 77.1000-1 prior to coal extraction.

The MSHA District will receive and acknowledge that an appropriate highwall/ground control plan conforms to the requirements of 30 CFR 77.1000. MSHA should make sure that all auger holes/highwall entries are properly closed or blocked in accordance with 30 CFR 77.1505 at the abandoned areas. Highwall ground control plans should be reviewed to assure they address the web spacing and other measures necessary to safely conduct the high rates of recovery typical of highwall mining methods as well as other relevant factors, such as depth of penetration and the confined work areas experienced by highwall mining operations.

Regarding training, each auger and highwall miner operator may now submit a single training plan to MSHA for approval that addresses typical conditions and operations for one or more machines. This training plan reflects the MSHA assigned identification number(s) and the machine(s) serial number(s) for the machine(s) that the training plan(s) covers. Hazard training that covers the specifics of the site is to be given when miners are transferred to a new location. Otherwise, new employees receive either new miner or experienced miner training, as applicable. Annual refresher and task training requirements remain unchanged.

Background

The Agency recognizes the unique needs of auger and highwall mining operators that are dictated by the mobile nature of their business. This procedure document provides uniform methods of assigning identification numbers to these types of operations and notifying MSHA when these operations relocate that simplify compliance with regulations. This method of assigning identification numbers will permit training plans

to be moved from district to district. This will ease the burden on operators in that they will not have to resubmit these documents and duplicate certain training when equipment is moved. The incorporation of portable mining units into MSHA's system of identifying coal mine activities subject to mandatory inspections will also improve uniformity of inspection and the continuity of accident and violation histories.

Authority

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977; 30 CFR Part 41; 30 CFR 77.1000-1; and 77.1505.

Filing Instructions

This procedure instruction letter should be filed behind the tab marked "Procedure Instruction Letters" in the binder entitled Coal Mine Safety and Health General Inspection Procedures Handbook.

Issuing Office and Contact Person

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Distribution

Program Policy Manual Holders
Coal Surface Mine Operators
Coal Contractors

ISSUE DATE: February 10, 2004

PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P04-06

FROM: RAY McKINNEY
Administrator for
Coal Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Hazards Associated with Surface Mines Intersecting Abandoned or
Underground Workings

Scope

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) applies to surface coal mine operators, miners' representatives, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, and other interested parties.

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform the mining community about the hazards associated with oxygen deficiency and methane accumulation in pit areas following intersection with underground mine workings. In addition, this PIB re-emphasizes the requirements of 30 CFR 77.1713 and 30 CFR 77.1200.

Background

On June 18, 2003, an inundation of gas occurred at a surface coal mine. An MSHA inspector arrived to conduct an inspection. Finding no miners in the general area, the inspector drove into the pit (active working area) where his vehicle stalled and could not be re-started. When the inspector exited the vehicle, he became light headed and experienced tightness in his chest. The inspector began walking out of the pit area, and as he traveled along the access road, the light headed feeling and tightening in his chest diminished. The inspector phoned the field office supervisor who immediately dispatched another inspector to the site. An investigation of the area was conducted using gas detection equipment. It was determined that low oxygen was present in the pit with oxygen readings as low as 9.3 percent. The low oxygen resulted from the surface mine's intersection with the openings of an abandoned underground mine.

There can be a risk of rapid release and inundation of dangerous mine gases when surface coal mine operators intentionally or unintentionally intersect abandoned or active underground workings. Such a rapid release of dangerous mine gases can harm a miner in the surface working area. While the experience of the gas inundation referenced above is rare, it illustrates the need to follow the daily examination requirement of section 77.1713 and test for oxygen deficiency and methane following an intersection with underground workings. It further demonstrates the importance of maintaining a current and up-to-date mine map.

Information

Section 77.1713(a) states that:

“At least once during each working shift, or more often if necessary for safety, each active working area and each active surface installation shall be examined by a certified person designated by the operator to conduct such examinations for hazardous conditions and any hazardous conditions noted during such examinations shall be reported to the operator and shall be corrected by the operator.”

Surface coal mine operators often intentionally, and sometimes unintentionally, mine areas proximate to underground workings where there is a risk of intersecting such underground workings of abandoned or worked out mines. When such intersections occur, there is a substantial risk that “bad air”, i.e., methane and other dangerous mine gases will escape from the underground workings and create a hazardous condition for miners working at the surface mine.

Therefore, surface operators should test for oxygen deficiency and methane following an intersection with abandoned or worked out underground workings. The potential release and inundation of dangerous mine gases following such an intersection constitutes the kind of hazardous condition that would require mine operators to conduct additional examinations as required by the standard. Surface coal mine operators should be prepared to test for oxygen deficiency and the presence of other dangerous mine gases when an intersection with underground workings occurs.

Surface coal mine operators can also anticipate an intersection with underground workings by using the mine map information gathered under 30 CFR 77.1200. This standard states, in part, that:

“The operator shall maintain an accurate and up-to-date map of the mine, on a scale of not less than 100 nor more than 500 feet to the inch, at or near the mine, in an area chosen by the mine operator, with a duplicate copy on file at a separate and distinct location, to minimize the danger of destruction by fire or other hazard. The map shall show:

(i) All worked out and abandoned areas;

(k) Underground mine workings underlying and within 1,000 feet of the active areas of the mine.”

The mine map must be available for inspection by the authorized representative.

Authority

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and 30 C.F.R. §77.1713 and 77.1200.

Contact Person(s)

Coal Mine Safety and Health Administration
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Internet Availability

This information bulletin may be viewed on the Internet by accessing www.msha.gov/Regs/Compliance/PIB/PIB2004.

Distribution

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