



JUL 27 2009

Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
P. O. Box 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Subject: Mine Ventilation Plan, Section 75.370, 30 CFR 75, Upper
Big Branch Mine-South, I.D. No. 46-08436, Performance
Coal Company, Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia

This will acknowledge receipt of a revision to the ventilation plan, dated July 22, 2009, received by MSHA on July 23, 2009, for the subject mine. The proposed revision is to open the No.2 & 3 entries to the surface in the Birchtown Portal Area by surface blasting to intersect the active mine. The primary and secondary escapeways, which normally exit the Birchtown portals, will be temporarily rerouted down to the North Mains Portals as previously approved, while construction takes place at the Birchtown Portals. Additional, all safety precautions and procedures under the approved Surface Blasting Plan are to be complied with at the subject mine.

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved ventilation plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the portion of the mine map.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/s/ ROBERT G. HARDMAN

Robert G. Hardman
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Neil Fox RR 7/24/09
Initials *MFH* Date 7/23/09

U. S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880-1000



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Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
P. O. Box 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

Subject: Mine Ventilation Plan, Section 75.370, 30 CFR 75, Upper
Big Branch Mine-South, I.D. No. 46-08436, Performance
Coal Company, Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia

This will acknowledge receipt of a revision to the ventilation plan, dated July 22, 2009, received by MSHA on July 23, 2009, for the subject mine. The proposed revision is to open the No.2 & 3 entries to the surface in the Birchton Portal Area by surface blasting to intersect the active mine. The primary and secondary escapeways, which normally exit the Birchton portals, will be temporarily rerouted down to the North Mains Portals as previously approved, while construction takes place at the Birchton Portals. Additional, all safety precautions and procedures under the approved Surface Blasting Plan are to be complied with at the subject mine.

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved ventilation plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the portion of the mine map.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Hardman".

Robert G. Hardman
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

July 22, 2009

Mr. Robert Hardman
Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880

Re: Performance Coal Company
Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID: 46-08436
State ID: U-3042-92
Ventilation Revision

Dear Sir:

Please find the enclosed ventilation revision for the Upper Big Branch Mine for your review and approval. This revision is to open the number two and number three entries to the surface in the Birchton Portal Area. Once these entries are open to the outside permanent stoppings will be constructed in them, therefore there will be no substantial change in air quantity from the adjacent portals.

The primary and secondary escapeways, which normally exit out the Birchton Portals, will be temporarily rerouted down the North Mains as previously approved. The escapeways are being rerouted to avoid the area of the Birchton Portals where the construction is taking place. Upon completion of blasting operations the area will be made safe for travel and the escapeways will be routed back to the Birchton Portals. The escapeways should be routed to the North Portal for less than 90 days while construction takes place at the Birchton Portals.

A list of safety precautions to be followed is attached with this submittal.

Performance Coal Company does not currently have a miner's representative. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (304) 854-3516.

Respectfully Submitted,
Performance Coal Company, Inc.

Eric Lilly
Mine Engineer

MSHA
MOUNT HOPE, WV

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Attachment C

Safety Precautions for Blasting Within 500' of Underground Mines

1. Surface blasting shall be coordinated with the underground mine to ensure that all employees of the underground mine are evacuated a minimum distance of 1,000 feet from the blast area. The underground mine operator shall be notified prior to blasting to allow sufficient time for the evacuation of the underground employees. Surface blasting shall not commence until notification from the underground mine operator that all employees have been evacuated to a safe area has been received by the surface mine operator.
2. If the 500-foot blasting zone encompasses any primary or alternate escapeway, the underground employees will be evacuated outby at least 1,000 feet from the blast area.
3. If the 1,000-foot restriction cannot be met, all personnel shall be removed from the mine during blasting operations.
4. All surface employees of the involved mine(s) shall be evacuated to at least 1,500 feet from the blast area.
5. After surface blasting has occurred, the surface mine operator shall notify the underground mine operator to confirm the blasting has been completed.
6. After blasting, any affected underground workings will be examined by a certified person prior to resuming mining operations and the results recorded in an on-shift/pre-shift examination book. If any adverse conditions caused by the blasting are noted, MSHA shall be notified immediately, and the adverse conditions shall be corrected prior to any work in or inby such areas except to correct such conditions.
7. If blast-induced damage occurs in the underground mine, MSHA shall be notified immediately. Underground operations in the blast-induced damaged area, any other affected area, and blasting operations on the surface within 500 feet of the underground mine shall cease until the areas are evaluated by MSHA personnel, a plan developed, approved, and implemented to address the blast-induced damage, and the damage repaired.

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8. In the event that blasting causes an intersection with the underground mine, MSHA shall be notified immediately. Underground operations in the affected area and blasting operations on the surface within 500 feet of the underground mine shall cease until the area is evaluated by MSHA personnel, a plan developed, approved, and implemented to address the intersection with the underground mine.
9. MSHA rules and regulations will be complied with at all times.
10. A letter from the underground mine operator of any affected mine(s) not totally abandoned stating concurrence with the terms of the permit application and safety precautions.
11. Blasting operations will comply with the approved Modification to the Ventilation Plan for additional openings
12. The mine ventilation controls will be maintained at all times.
13. If drilling intersects underground entries, the intersecting hole(s) will be backfilled and not shot.

**Safety Precautions for Blasting With the Intention of Intersecting
Underground Mines**

1. Surface blasting shall be coordinated with the underground mine to ensure that all employees of the underground mine are removed from the mine during blasting operations that intersect the mine. The underground mine operator shall be notified prior to blasting to allow sufficient time for the evacuation of the underground employees. Surface blasting shall not commence until notification from the underground mine operator that all employees have been evacuated to a safe area has been received by the surface mine operator.
2. All surface employees of the involved mine(s) shall be evacuated to at least 1,500 feet from the blast area.
3. After surface blasting has occurred, the surface mine operator shall notify the underground mine operator to confirm the blasting has been completed.
4. After blasting, the entire mine will be examined by a certified

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person prior to underground employees re-entering the mine and before resuming mining operations and the results will be recorded in an on-shift/pre-shift examination book. If any adverse conditions caused by the blasting are noted, MSHA shall be notified immediately, and the adverse conditions shall be corrected prior to any work in or inby such areas except to correct such conditions.

5. If blast-induced damage occurs in the underground mine, MSHA shall be notified immediately. Underground operations in the blast-induced damaged area, any other affected area, and blasting operations on the surface within 500 feet of the underground mine shall cease until the areas are evaluated by MSHA personnel, a plan developed, approved, and implemented to address the blast-induced damage, and the damage repaired.
6. In the event that blasting causes an unplanned intersection with the underground mine, MSHA shall be notified immediately. Underground operations in the affected area and blasting operations on the surface within 500 feet of the underground mine shall cease until the area is evaluated by MSHA personnel, a plan developed, approved, and implemented to address the intersection with the underground mine.
7. MSHA rules and regulations will be complied with at all times.
8. A letter from the underground mine operator of any affected mine(s) not totally abandoned stating concurrence with the terms of the permit application and safety precautions.
9. Blasting operations will comply with the approved Modification to the Ventilation Plan for additional openings
10. The mine ventilation controls will be maintained at all times.
11. If drilling intersects underground entries, the intersecting hole(s) will be backfilled and not shot.
12. MSHA will be notified at least 24 hours prior to blasting that intersects the mine.

All active mines, Upper Big Branch Mine (U-3042-92) agree to the above conditions to be coordinated with the proposed face-up operation.

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Temporary controls to be removed once portals are opened and stoppings are constructed in entries 2 and 3.

This regulator will be replaced by a solid stopping once portals are opened and stoppings are constructed in entries 2 and 3.

Proposed Air Readings
 PORTAL 1: 25,000 CFM
 PORTAL 2: Blocked off
 PORTAL 3: Blocked off
 PORTAL 4: 55,000 CFM
 PORTAL 5: 120,000 CFM

BIRCHTON PORTAL

100' Co

Mine Limit
 Crop

Proposed Back of Shot

Proposed Back of Shot

800115
 957.03



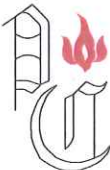
ACTIVE

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INTAKE AIR	BOX CHECK	FAN
SECONDARY INTAKE AIR	PROPOSED BOX CHECK	CHECK CURTAIN
RETURN AIR	MAN DOOR	PROPOSED BELT HEAD
PRIMARY ESCAPEWAY	ACTIVE OR INACTIVE GAS WELL	BELT HEAD
ALTERNATE ESCAPEWAY	PLUGGED GAS WELL	OVERCAST
PROPOSED BELT	PERMANENT STOPPINGS	PROPOSED OVERCAST
EXISTING BELT	PROPOSED STOPPINGS	AIRLOCK DOOR
PROPERTY LINES	AUGER WORKS	REGULATOR
200' TEST DRILL LINE	AUGER AREA	PROPOSED REGULATOR
100' COVER BOUNDARY	WET SEALS	ADJACENT MINING
APPROVED MINE LIMIT LINE	PROPOSED WET SEALS	COAL CONTOURS
TRACK	RAILROAD	POWER LINES
WATER	ROADS	Denotes areas not yet mined
	TRAILS	
	STREAM	
	INTERMITTENT STREAM	



PERFORMANCE COAL COMPANY
 P.O. BOX 69, NAOMA, WV 25140

UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE

M.S.H.A. ID No. 46-08436 WV ID No. U-3042-92

DATE: 7/22/09 SCALE: 1"=200' DWG No. 1 of 1

DRAWN BY: Rt. 3 Staff CHECKED BY:

Ventilation Revision

Additional Openings