

U. S. Department of Labor

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



APR 26 2005

Mr. Bill Potter
President
Performance Coal Company
P. O. Box 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Dear Mr. Potter:

Subject: Mine Ventilation Plan, Section 75.370(a), 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, submitted to this office and dated April 14, 2005, which shows the proposed controls to be installed and removed in order to convert the two return airways, in a portion of the North Mains, to intake air and reroute the North Mains section returns through entries connecting the North Mains and the old Headgate 10 bleeder panel. Also, the revision addresses changing a portion of the Headgate 10 and 11 panel entries from return to intake air. The proposed change is shown on a portion of the mine map, also dated April 15, 2005, and submitted with the revision request. .

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved plan for this mine.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact William L. Ross at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/s/ JESSE P. COLE

Jesse P. Cole
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4

cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3 encl.)
Files/dac

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials *JK* Date *4-26-05*
JK 4/26/05

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P. O. Box 69
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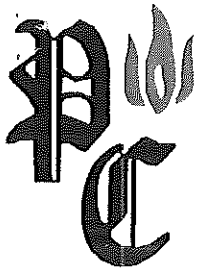
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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact William L. Ross at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Cole".

Jesse P. Cole
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

April 14, 2005

Mr. Jesse Cole
District Manager
Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mt. Hope, West Virginia 25880-0112

RE: Performance Coal Company - Upper Big Branch Mine-South
Federal I.D. 46-08436, State I. D. U-3042-92 – Ventilation Plan

Dear Mr. Cole:

Performance Coal Company, Upper Big Branch Mine-South (ID 46-08436), has recently made a cut-through from the North Mains section into the old Panel 11 tailgate. This was done as a controlled cut-through. We propose to send the section's left return into the longwall bleeder at this cut-through and overcast the right return across to the left return and on out the new cut-through. The left and right returns outby will be converted to intake. EP 20 will be relocated to just outby the cut-through as shown on the attached map. The air courses from the EP 20 current location to the proposed location will be converted to intake with minimal quantity. This change will eliminate approximately 15,000 feet of single entry return and greatly enhance the face ventilation. The air will be going into the same bleeder but taking a shorter route to reduce resistance. An EP will be established at the section regulator that is injecting air into the bleeder.

The total amount of air going into the bleeder from both returns will not exceed 80,000 cfm. The air will be regulated such that all the EP's will continue to function properly. The proposed changes are shown on the attached map.

During the time while Panel 11A longwall is being mined, the amount of return air from the North Mains section will be the equivalent of single split ventilation and the amount of return from North Mains going into the longwall bleeder will not exceed 45,000 cfm.

Your timely review and approval of this revision would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, or require further information, please call me at (304) 854-1761.

Respectfully Submitted,

Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer

