



JAN 22 2010

*Belt air
split panel 21
+ new T6 panel 22*

Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
POB 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Dear Mine Operator:

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 January 8, 2010, and submitted to this office January 11, 2010. The revision requests to change the intake air course on Headgate 1 North panel to return air; show the ventilation scheme for the No. 22 tailgate Panel; show the return air course on North glory mains to intake air and change the intake air course in the No. 3 entry on MMU 050 section. Ventilation controls will be installed and removed to change the ventilation scheme.

This revision is approved and will be made a part of the approved plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the attached map of the subject mine. **All ventilation changes will be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.324.**

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

Cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3 incl.)/ Files/nlc

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RC 1/21/10
Initials *Jm* 1/21/10 Date



JAN 22 2010

Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
POB 69
Naoma, WV 25140

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Big Branch Mine - South, I.D. No. 46-08436, Performance
Coal Company, Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia

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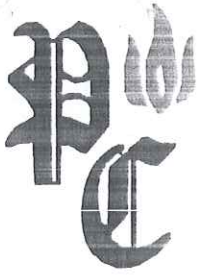
Sincerely,

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

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

01-22-10

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Hill".



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

January 8, 2010

Mr. Robert G. 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 attached ventilation revision for your review and approval. Please note the addition of projections for the Panel 2 Tailgate. This revision will also allow for an increase in the quantity of return air from the gate sections while maintaining a walkable return.

This revision is shown in 2 phases. Phase 1 shows the current ventilation and the controls to be installed and/or removed to complete the ventilation change. The Phase 2 map shows the ventilation after the change has been completed.

The return off the 001 section will travel down the #1 entry of Panel 2 Crossover and will mix with the return off the 002 section. A portion of the belt air from the 001 section and all of the belt air from the 002 section will enter the return. This return will split at Headgate 1 North. The travelable return from the sections will flow outby the Panel 2 Crossover and across the Panel 1 Crossover to Tailgate 1 North. The return air flowing inby the Panel 2 Crossover will be monitored at EP-65. This EP will move outby with the longwall face until it reaches the regulator at break 31, which will become the permanent EP location.

The regulator currently allowing neutral air from the longwall belt to enter the return at 11 break will be relocated to 12 break. This relocation will allow intake to course over the overcasts at 11 break. The return entries along North Glory Mains will be converted into intake entries.

There is currently no miner's representative at the Upper Big Branch Mine. This plan will be posted at the mine office. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at (304) 854-3516.

Respectfully Submitted,
Performance Coal Company, Inc.

Eric Lilly
Mine Engineer

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

Dear Mine Operator:

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 October 13, 2009, and submitted to this office January 11, 2010. This revision shows the ventilation scheme for the No 22 tailgate Panel. The changing of the intake air course on Headgate 1 north panel to return air, and the return air course on north glory mains to intake air, change the intake air course in the no. 3 entry on mmu 050 section. Ventilation controls are to be installed/removed ventilation to change the ventilation scheme.

This revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the attached map of the subject mine. **All ventilation changes will be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.324.**

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Sincerely,

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

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