U. S. Department of Labor

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

APR 12 2005

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

Dear Mr. Potter:

Subject: Supplement (3rd) to the Roof-Control Plan, Upper Big Branch Mine-South, I.D. No. 46-08436, Performance Coal Company, Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia, Permit No. 4-RC-11-94-12307-10, approved January 21, 2004

Your supplement, received on April 5, 2005, to the roof-control plan, has been reviewed and is approved as shown on the enclosed page(s). This approval is based upon a technical review of the roof conditions and roof-control practices in the mine by representatives of the Mine Safety and Health Administration and upon receipt becomes part of the approved plan.

Should you have any questions concerning your roof-control plan, please contact Jon A. Braenovich at this office, (304) 877-3900, Extension 130.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: State Inspector-at-Large, Oak Hill Division (1 encl.)
Mount Hope Field Office (3 encl.)
Don Winston (1 encl.)
Files/cls

33. When adverse roof conditions are encountered such as horsebacks, slickensided slip formations, clay veins, kettle bottoms, surface cracks, mud streaks, or similar types of condition in the mine roof, supplemental roof supports shall be installed in addition to the primary roof support, as appropriate in the affected area.

34. When second mining is being done, the intersection accessing the pillar or pillars being mined, will have supplementary support installed in that intersection prior to second mining those pillars. The supplemental support will be five (5) 8' cable bolts installed in a star pattern.

LONGWALL MINING SYSTEMS

Method used to maintain a safe travel way out of the section through the tailgate side of the longwall.

The tailgate entry of the first longwall panel will be supplementally supported by a single row of posts installed on 5 foot spacing or double row of staggered posts on 8 foot centers for its entirety before mining commences. If subsequent longwall panels have areas that will not be mined (no adjacent gob), supplemental tailgate roof support in these areas will be posts as specified above.

The following procedures will be followed if a ground failure prevents travel out of the section through the tailgate side of the longwall:

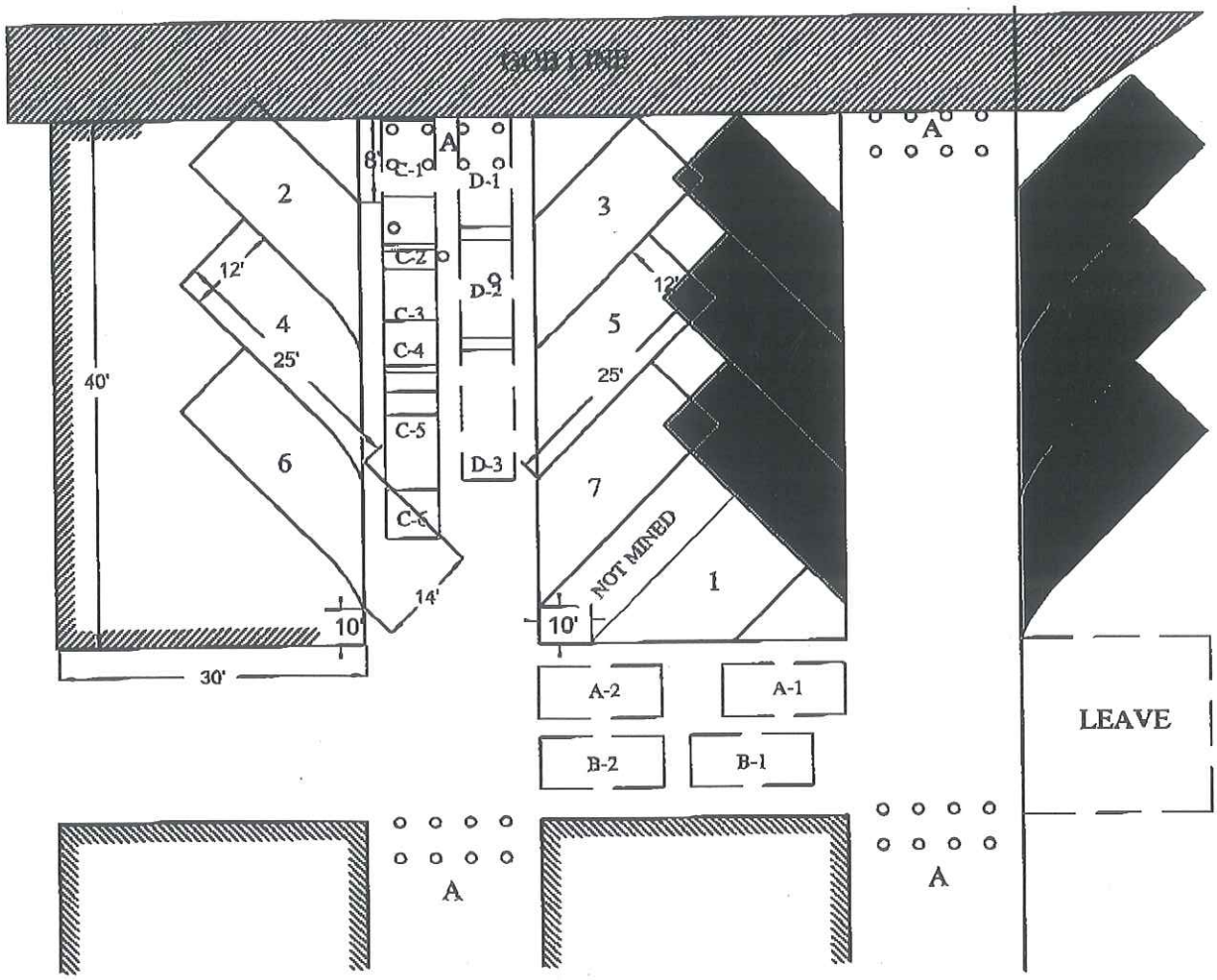
(a) Should ground failure occur that creates a condition that prohibits travel out of section through the tailgate side, miners in the affected area (longwall section) will be notified immediately.

(b) The affected miners will be informed of the condition on the tailgate side of the longwall and will be re-instructed on the location of designated escapeways off the section by the use of the section escapeway map. In addition to instruction on the location of designed escapeways, the affected miners will be instructed on the location of all methods of exit off the longwall and the proper evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. To assure that all affected employees are familiar with the proper escapeway off the section, those affected individuals will be walked to the point where the escape way starts off the section. This is to assure that affected individuals know the exact route to travel should an emergency exit off the section become necessary. This drill will be repeated at intervals not to exceed 30 days as long as the tailgate remains blocked.

(c) Miners affected on the longwall section, by blockages on the tailgate side, will be promptly re-instructed on the location and use, by demonstration, of the self-contained self-rescuer device. All affected miners will be given hands-on training on the SCSR within 24 hours of the initial time of the tailgate blockage.

(d) Should travel out of the section through the tailgate side become impassable, intake air reaching the affected longwall section will be monitored for carbon monoxide at the mouth of the panel in each intake entry and at or near the headgate end where all the intakes become common but before the air starts down the longwall face. This will be accomplished primarily be the use of the approved mine CO monitoring system. Should the monitoring system become inoperative during the tailgate blockage, provisions will be made to monitor

Full Pillar Plan (MRS)



1. Breaker Posts (A) are to be installed after mining is completed inby.
2. MRS Units will be set at locations (A-1) and (B-1), and also at (C-1) and (D-1) prior to mining Cut #1.
3. MRS Units will be set at locations (D-1) and (C-1), and also at A-2 and B-2 prior to mining Cut #2.
4. MRS Units will be set at locations (C-2) and (D-1) prior to mining Cut #3.
5. MRS Units will be set at locations (C-3) and (D-2) prior to mining Cut #4.
6. MRS Units will be set at locations (C-4) and (D-2) prior to mining Cut # 5.
7. MRS Units will be set at locations (C-5) and (D-3) prior to mining Cut #6.
8. MRS Units will be set at locations (C-6) and (D-3) prior to mining Cut #7.
9. (8) Breaker Posts will be set at location (A) immediately after completion of mining in block.

o Breaker Post

A-2 MRS Units

Note: Block of larger dimensions may be pillared in a similar sequence provided that the minimum dimension is no less than 30 feet by 40 feet .

Note: All posts on 4-foot spacing.

Note: All timbers except breakers shall have half headers or gluts in pairs set between them and the mine roof.

Note: Dimension of the stump not mined will be a minimum of 10'.

When mining twins lifts from the same opening, cut depths will not exceed half the block width.

When mining the cut out of the crosscut as the first lift, safety precaution #34 on page 8 will be complied with. When this cut is not the first cut, safety precaution #34 does not apply.

No one is allowed to proceed beyond the second full row of roof bolts outby the face.

Drawing No. 19A

Full Pillar Plan (MRS)

M.S.H.A. ID No. 46-08436 SCALE: 1" = 20'

34A Supplemental Page - April 12, 2005

Performance Coal Company
P.O. Box 69 Naoma, WV 25140

April 5, 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 – Roof Control Plan

Dear Mr. Cole:

Performance Coal Company, Upper Big Branch Mine-South (ID 46-08436), is submitting the attached Drawing 19A (full pillar plan with Mobile Roof Supports) as an alternate cut sequence plan. We would like the option to take cut #7 as the first cut. This plan will be added to the roof control plan as page 34A. Also, an additional safety precaution was added to the roof control plan as precaution #34 on page 8. This precaution will be complied with when the cut sequence is done as shown on Drawing 19A. When the cut sequence is that shown on Drawing 19, then safety precaution #34 does not apply.

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,

George T. Levo

Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer