MAY 16 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 26, 2005, which shows the proposed ventilation to recover longwall Panel 15, set-up longwall Panel 20, and the proposed ventilation during the subsequent mining of longwall Panel 20. The revision is shown on three (3) portions of the mine map, dated April 25, 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
MAY 16 2005

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at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

Jesse P. Cole  
District Manager  
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4
April 26, 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

Dear Mr. Cole:

Performance Coal Company, Upper Big Branch Mine-South (ID 46-08436), is submitting the Panel 19 pullout ventilation plan, Panel 20 set-up ventilation plan and proposed ventilation for Panel 20 during mining. The proposed ventilation schemes for the above are shown on the three attached drawings.

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,

[Signature]

George T. Levo
Performance Coal Co.
Mining Engineer