

U. S. Department of Labor

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



AUG 01 2005

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

Dear Mr. Potter:

Subject: Approved Mine Ventilation Plan, Section 75.370(a)(1), 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 29, 2005, which was submitted to this office due to the area behind Panel 20 being recently rendered inaccessible due to a roof fall. This revision includes changes in precautions and procedures to assure safe and adequate ventilation of the longwall gob. Precautions and procedures stated in your letter address daily examinations of specified evaluation points, a complete perimeter evaluation of the bleeder system, monitoring the air intake to Panel 20 longwall, and monitoring water levels in the bleeder. Your letter also states that the inby MP will be located just outby the roof fall near crosscut 85. A portion of the mine map was also submitted and is dated July 21, 2005.

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 the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/S/ JESSE P. COLE

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

cc: Mount Hope Field Office
Ventilation Department
Files/dac

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials JPC/RSR 8-1-05 Date
BR 8-1-05

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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

July 29, 2005

Mr. Jesse P. 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), is submitting the following precautions and procedures to assure safe and adequate ventilation of the longwall gob during to the recent inaccessibility of the area behind Panel 20 longwall.

All of the EP's at the mouth of the longwall headgates 11 through 20 will be checked on a daily basis and compared to previous recent readings. Any significant or unusual variances of +/-10% of air quantity value will be investigated and a report will be completed. After completion of mining and equipment recovery from the longwall face in Panel 20 and after the start up of Panel 11A, a complete perimeter evaluation of the bleeder system will be conducted. If the longwall bleeder air has and is stabilized and the EP's are functioning normally, the EP's will revert back to weekly exams.

The air intake to the Panel 20 longwall will be closely monitored for any significant changes.

The water levels inby the set up faces for Panels 18, 19 and 20 longwalls will be monitored on a weekly basis to assure passage of air through these areas. Monitoring will be done with a down hole probe at the power boreholes in this area as shown on the attached map. The three boreholes are within 100' of each other and the one used for monitoring will be borehole No. 1. The MP near the Panel 20 set up face at 106 crosscut will be relocated to outby the roof fall that is preventing access to the area behind Panel 20. It will now be located just outby 85 crosscut.

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