SEP 20 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, 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 September 8, 2005, which shows an addendum to a plan which was approved on August 12, 2005. That plan included safety precautions and procedures for raise-drilling a coal-transfer shaft from the North Mains section of the subject mine to the Glory Hole Mains section of the Elk Run Coal Company's Castle Mine (46-07009). This revision consists of a revised page 1 for that plan and is necessary due to a change in the mining sequence for the development around the transfer shaft.

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
SEP 20 2005

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Sincerely,

Jesse Cole
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4
Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID 46-08436
STATE ID U-3042-92
Coal Transfer Shaft
Ventilation Supplement
Revised Page (9/7/2005)
Pilot Hole

1. If voids are encountered while drilling the pilot hole, drilling will be stopped a maximum of 50
   feet below the floor of the void.
2. The voids will be sealed off from the pilot hole by either a steel or concrete casing. Drilling can
   continue once the void has been confirmed to be sealed off.
3. The pilot hole will drill into the Castle mine where mining has already occurred. Access to this
   area will be dangered off during drilling. Once drilling breaks through into the Castle mine
   preshift examinations will begin and continue through out the process.
4. The pilot hole will drill into the Eagle seam where mining has already occurred. Access to this
   area will be dangered off during drilling. Once drilling breaks through into the Upper Big Branch
   mine preshift examinations will begin and continue through out the process.
5. After completing the pilot hole the pilot hole drill string will be removed. A cap with valve for
   sampling will be installed over the pilot hole in the floor of the Castle mine.
6. The raise bore drill rig will be installed on the surface. Before the drill string for the raise bore is
   installed between the 2 mines the cap between the seams will be removed. The air will be
   sampled before the cap is removed. Then the drill string will be extended down into the Upper
   Big Branch Mine
7. The raise bore will then excavate the shaft between the 2 seams. See page 2 for raise bore details.
8. After the raise bore drill string has been removed above the Castle mine, but still extends down
   below the Lower Cedar Grove seam, a packer will be installed. The hole will then be grouted cff
   above the Castle Mire.