DEC 18 2009

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 December 14, 2009, and submitted to this office December 16, 2009.

The ventilation revision requests to route a travelable return air course from the active MMU-029 into a common entry with MMU-040; make the #5 headgate entry a common intake air course with the existing primary escapeway; add a regulator to the overcast at the #1 Crossover on Headgate 1 North to allow the belt air to be reversed away from the longwall face; provide dewatering information; and project a future gateroad. A face sketch depicting mining Headgate 2 North with the belt line in #1 entry being ventilated with neutral air is included in the ventilation revision. In addition a face sketch is included depicting the typical longwall face ventilation for the No. 1 North Panel.

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.

Please note, a second longwall panel will not be possible if the condition of the third entry of the #1 headgate cannot be maintained in adequate condition to comply with the requirements of 30 CFR 75.384. 30 CFR 75.384 requires a travelable tailgate entry for both current and future longwall panels. Additionally, the currently approved ventilation base plan and this revision require isolation of the tailgate entry to
prevent the longwall tailgate travelway from being ventilated with air from the worked out area.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard J. Kline

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

Cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3 incl.)/Files/nlc
DEC 18 2009

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

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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 December 14, 2009, and submitted to this office December 16, 2009.

The ventilation revision requests to route a travelable return air course from the active MMU-029 into a common entry with MMU-040; make the #3 headgate entry a common intake air course with the existing primary escapeway; add a regulator to the overcast at the #1 Crossover on Headgate 1 North to allow the belt air to be reversed away from the longwall face; provide dewatering information; and project a future gateroad. A face sketch depicting mining Headgate 2 North with the belt line in #1 entry being ventilated with neutral air is included in the ventilation revision. In addition a face sketch is included depicting the typical longwall face ventilation for the No. 1 North Panel.

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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

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

December 14, 2009  

Dear Sir:  

Please find attached a ventilation revision to route the travelable return from the active MMU 029-0 into a common entry with MMU 040-0. This revision will also make the #3 entry of the longwall headgate common with the bleeder air of the longwall. Prior to activation of the longwall section in the second Northern longwall panel, this future tailgate entry will be maintained travelable as required by 75.215 and isolated to comply with 75.334, 75.364(a)(2), and 75.384.  

A drawing is attached showing the controls to be removed and installed for this revision. The return off of MMU 029-0 will be routed down the left side of North Glory Mains where it will cross overcasts on Headgate 1 North and be sent up Tailgate 1 North to the return shaft. The previous return entry will be made common with the belt along the #2 Crossover and with the longwall intake along Headgate 1 North. EP-LW1, MP A, and MP@X-Cut 36 will now include the #3 entry. A regulator will be added in the overcast at the #1 Crossover on Headgate 1 North. This will allow the belt air to be reversed away from the longwall face. A typical longwall face sketch is included showing this change.  

A face sketch is also included showing mining with the #1 entry containing the belt. This scheme will be used to mine Headgate 2 North. Please also find as a part of this revision, the bottom contour elevations in the bleeders of the active longwall. This will also show the dewatering system in place to handle future inflows of water and to keep ventilation uninterrupted.  

This revision is limited to the changes shown. All previously approved plan contents will be adhered to. There is currently no miner’s representative at the Upper Big Branch Mine. This plan will be posted at the mine office. 

Respectfully Submitted,  

Matthew Walker  
Mine Engineer  
Performance Coal Company  

MSHA  
MOUNT HOPE, WV  
DEC 14 2009  
RECEIVED  
VENTILATION
Where any equipment will run through ventilation controls, they shall be substantially constructed as follows:
Fly boards shall be installed rib to rib and fly pads will be installed overlapping so that a double thickness of ventilation material is achieved.

No shuttle cars will travel through line curtain that is ventilating the face.
## Upper Big Branch Mine
**48-08436**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine Segment</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th># Entries</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>R 1000 ft</th>
<th>Total H</th>
<th>Q beginning</th>
<th>Q end</th>
<th>Gain or Losses</th>
<th>Average Q</th>
<th>Q Squared</th>
<th>Segment H</th>
<th>Total H</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headgate:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intake</td>
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<td>140</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.636</td>
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<td>30000</td>
<td>120000</td>
<td>90000</td>
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<td>10000</td>
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<td>100000</td>
<td>70000</td>
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<td>0.52328</td>
<td>1.20204</td>
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**Additional Head Loss:** 1.30204 inches water

### Existing Return:

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<th>Return</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th># Entries</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>R 1000 ft</th>
<th>Total H</th>
<th>Q beginning</th>
<th>Q end</th>
<th>Gain or Losses</th>
<th>Average Q</th>
<th>Q Squared</th>
<th>Segment H</th>
<th>Total H</th>
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<td>70000</td>
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<td>0.49652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overcast</td>
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</table>

**Existing Return Loss:** 0.52327 inches water

**Total Head Loss:** 1.82531 inches water

The above tables show the additional head loss resulting from the mining of the #2 Headgate at Upper Big Branch Mine. The top portion shows the additional head required to maintain necessary quantities of air to operate. After further consultation with Paul’s Repair Shop (who designed and manufactured the exhausting fan), it is evident that the exhausting fan in a standalone system would have a reserve of approximately 10 times the capacity of current operation. With the current push-pull ventilation scheme, this reserve would be nearly doubled. Therefore, the 1.3 inches of water is minimal in comparison to the capacity of the ventilation system. The bottom portion shows the head loss through the existing return path, including shock loss from overcasts. The current operating pressure of the blowing fan is 5.5” and the exhausting fan is 4.0”. Fan curves for both fans are attached.
ACTUAL FAN PERFORMANCE WOULD BE BASED UPON THE PROJECT SYSTEM RESISTANCE.