

U. S. Department of Labor

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



JUN 30 2006

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 June 19, 2006, which shows the proposed sequence, location and ventilation of permanent seals to be constructed near the mouth of the Headgate 18 north section. As stated in your submittal letter, the seals are to be constructed in accordance with Section 75.335. The sealing and ventilation process is shown by two portions of the mine map, labeled "Building Sequence" and "Ventilation After Building", dated June 15, 2006, and June 19, 2006, respectively, 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/ Richard J. Kline

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

cc: Mt. Hope Field Office
Field Office Supervisor (Letter Only)
Inspector
Files/dac

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials *DM for BR* Date *6-30-06*
AK checked

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse P. Cole".

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

June 19, 2006

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 requesting approval to permanently seal the Headgate 18 north section at the mouth of the section. Attached is a map of a portion of the mine showing the locations of the proposed six (6) seals. Attached is a second map showing the ventilation of the seals after they are completed.

The seals will be constructed in accordance with 75.335.

Following is the proposed seal building sequence and related changes in ventilation controls:

Build seal #6

Remove stoppings A-1, B-1, B-2 and B-3

Build stopping B-4

This makes entries 1, 2, 3 and 4 common intakes

Build seals #1, #3 and #4

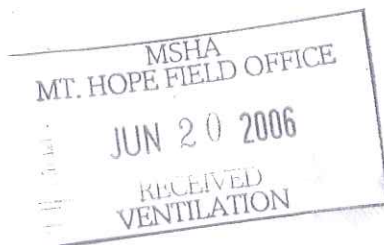
Drain and water trap installed in #1 seal

After #1 seal is completed, stopping B-4 will be removed.

Build Seals #2 and #5 simultaneously while removing stoppings C-1 and C-2

Sample pipe installed in #5 seal

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