

U. S. Department of Labor

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



OCT 24 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 October 11, 2005, which shows the proposed ventilation and evaluation of proposed retreat mining in a portion of the Headgate 20 panel. The revision also includes a typical face ventilation sketch that will be used exclusively during the retreat mining of Headgate 20. The proposed revision is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated October 11, 2005, and submitted with the 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 (3 encl.)  
Files/dac

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
Initials BR Date 10-20-05

**U. S. Department of Labor**

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



OCT 24 2005

Mr. Bill Potter  
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, submitted to this office and dated October 11, 2005, which shows the proposed ventilation and evaluation of proposed retreat mining in a portion of the Headgate 20 panel. The revision also includes a typical face ventilation sketch that will be used exclusively during the retreat mining of Headgate 20. The proposed revision is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated October 11, 2005, and submitted with the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse P. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



# Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

October 11, 2005

Mr. Jesse Cole  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
100 Bluestone Road  
Mount Hope, WV 25880

Re: Ventilation Revision  
Upper Big Branch Mine – South  
Panel 20 Pillaring  
MSHA ID: 46-08436

Dear Mr. Cole,

Performance Coal Company, Upper Big Branch-South (ID 46-08436), is requesting permission to pillar mine in the Headgate 20 Section. The air will be dumped into the longwall bleeder system. Ventilation controls and the Final EP location will be situated according to the attached map. Also included is a typical face sketch for the pillar section for Headgate 20 only.

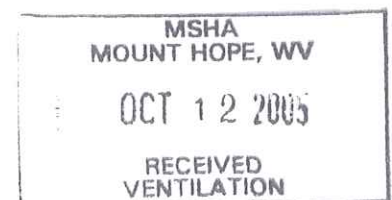
Please note the location of the proposed “crib block” stopping between Headgate 20 and Headgate 19. These stoppings will be constructed prior to any pillaring on Headgate 20 and Performance Coal Company will notify the appropriate Mine Safety and Health Administration, District 4 personnel to allow inspection of the crib block stoppings prior to the commencement of pillaring Headgate 20.

In addition, once the ventilation is established to retreat mine Headgate 20, all other Evaluation Points and any locations where feeding gob air to the Jarrell’s Branch Fan shall be examined for quality and quantity and recorded prior to commencement of pillar mining Headgate 20.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this ventilation plan revision, please contact me at (304) 854-1761.

Respectfully Submitted,

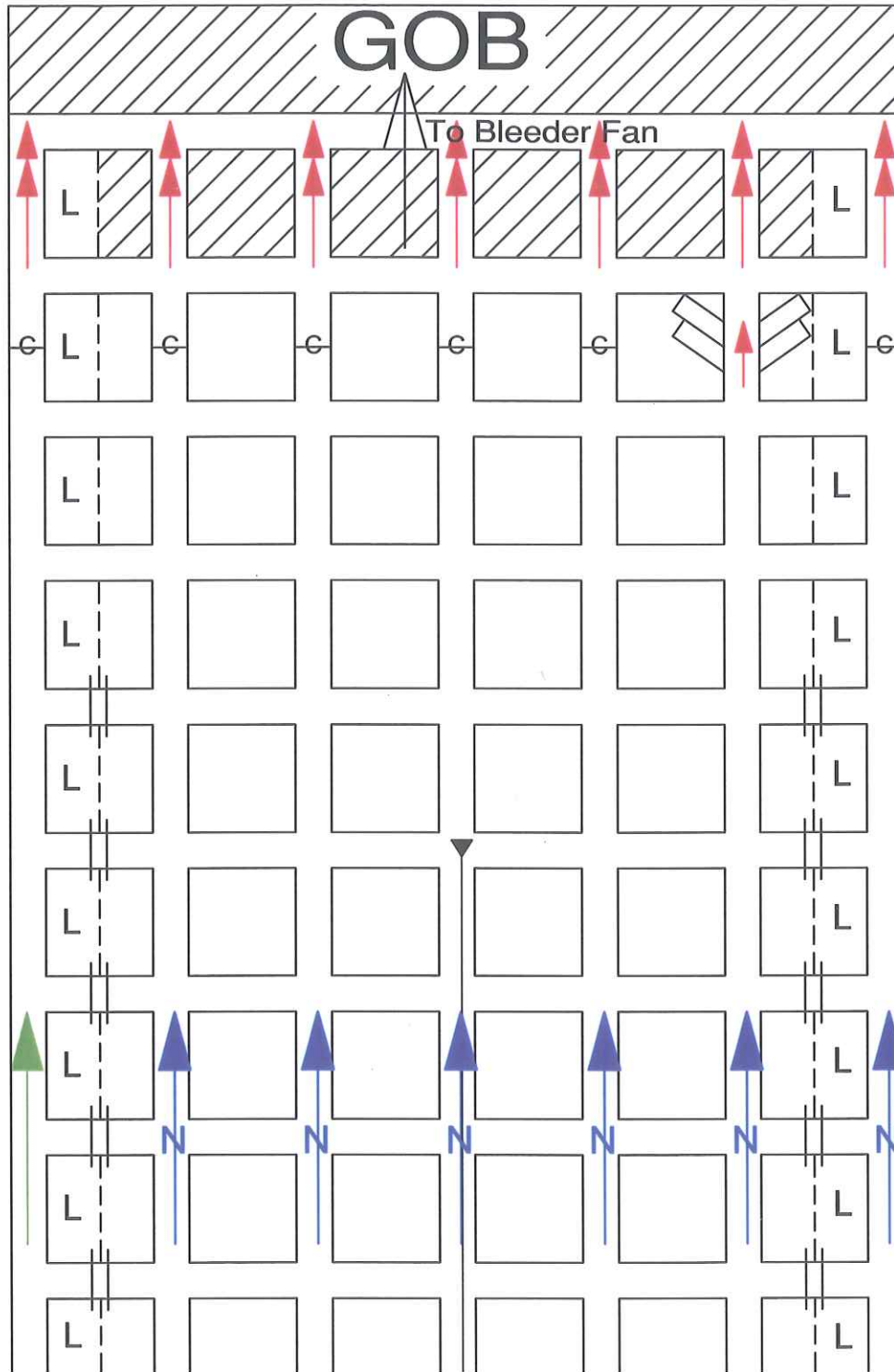
Performance Coal Company  
George T. Levo  
Mining Engineer



# Typical Section Retreat

## Sketch Sweep Ventilation

### For Headgate 20



MSHA  
 MOUNT HOPE, WV  
 OCT 12 2005  
 RECEIVED  
 VENTILATION

- Intake air
- ← N Intake Neutral air
- ← Return air
- G Check Curtain
- ▼ Belt Tail piece
- || Stopping
- R Regulator
- L Leave block

Notes:  
 Number of Entries may vary  
 No 2nd Mining of Pillar blocks or barriers in outside Entries

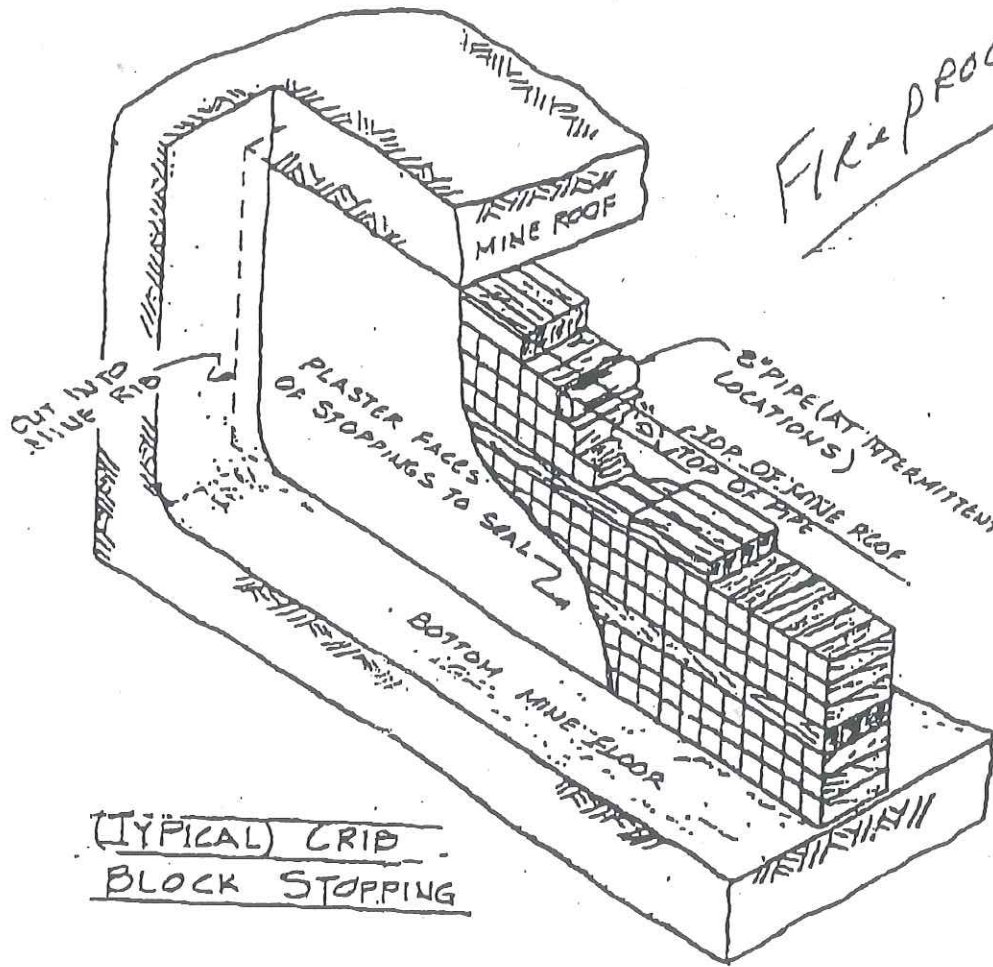
Not to Scale  
 Mirror Image Applies

INCLUDE THIS IN REVISION TO PULL PILLARS IN HG-20.

W. Miller

10/24/05

FIRE PROOF PAINT



TYPICAL CRIP BLOCK STOPPING

1. Crib Block Stoppings will be constructed of minimum 6"x6"x24" timber (minimum) in areas where severe roof conditions are expected and ventilation controls must be maintained for an indefinite period of time.
2. Construction of stopping will be similar to that indicated above. At intermittent locations, an opening (e.g. pipe) may be left at the top for air bleed and/or bottom for water flow.
3. Crib Stopping will be wedged into place and all openings and cracks plastered shut, and painted with fire resistant paint.
4. Where the crib stopping is to be used as a regulator, a minimum of four-eight inch dia. pipes will be installed.

10/24/05

W. Miller