

U. S. Department of Labor

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



AUG 08 2007

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

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

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 July 25, 2007, showing the controls to be installed and removed in order to re-route the left return air split from Unit 2 section. The revision includes the addition of four (4) evaluation points that will be used to evaluate the air entering and exiting a worked-out, bad roof area off the left return. As stated in the submittal letter, the face areas of the worked-out area will continue to be examined weekly as required and will be traveled to the deepest point of penetration. The revision is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated July 25, 2007, and submitted with the revision request.

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 map.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact William L. Ross in 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
Inspector
Field Office Supervisor
Files/dac

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials BR
Date 8-7-07

U. S. Department of Labor

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Mount Hope, WV 25880-1000



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President
Performance Coal Company
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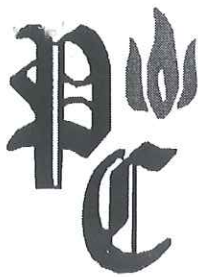
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Hardman", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

July 25, 2007

Mr. Robert G. Hardman
Acting 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. Hardman:

Performance Coal Company, Upper Big Branch Mine-South (ID 46-08436), requests approval of the attached ventilation revision. The request is to reroute the unit 2 left return air course. The current routing is through extremely poor roof conditions and the area is inaccessible and worked out. The proposed change is shown on the attached maps. This plan includes the addition of 4 EP's. The EP's, DPP and faces will be examined weekly. *TWO SAFE TRAVELWAYS WILL BE MAINTAINED TO AREAS TO BE EXAMINED.*

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

MSHA
MOUNT HOPE, WV

JUL 26 2007

RECEIVED
VENTILATION