



DEC 11 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 October 29, 2007, showing the controls to be installed and removed in order to perform a controlled cut through from the North Mains Parallel section (029-0 and 030-0 MMUs) into the existing North Mains. Additionally, the revision shows the proposed ventilation change, and the associated controls to be in-place, in order to set-up and mine new projections in the North Mains. Part of the change will include converting an existing intake entry in the North Mains to a common parallel return and changing all entries of the North Mains Parallel to common intake air. The revision is shown on four (4) partial mine maps, labeled "Phase 1-4, dated October 22, 2007, and submitted with the revision request.

The 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 maps.

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
Field Office Supervisor
Inspector
Files/trm

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials *BE*
Date *12-11-07*

U. S. Department of Labor

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



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President
Performance Coal Company
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Naoma, WV 25140

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Hardman".

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

ONE COPY WAS
GIVEN TO KEITHS
(CMT) ON
12-13-07

October 29, 2007

Mr. Robert G. Hardman
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 to cut North Parallel into North Mains and to continue to mine to the west. Attached are three copies of a four phased plan to accomplish the above. They are described as follows:

Phase 1: Prior to and during controlled cut-through.

Phase 2: Ventilation changes to be made prior to resumption of mining including:

Convert the old North Mains intake to return (#2 entry). This gives 3 parallel returns from the cut-through back to 45cc and 2 parallel returns from 45cc to the outside. Convert North Mains Parallel to all intake from 44cc to the face. Make necessary changes to allow the eliminated old North Mains intake to flow into North Mains Parallel as additional intake. This is located in the upper left corner of old North Mains where North Mains turns to the west. Cutt and build 3 overcasts in cut-through and putting them into service.

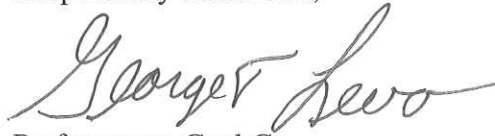
Phase 3: Mining with sweep ventilation. This phase shows all the proposed changes in Phase 2 as already having been made. Mining in phase 3 will utilize MMU 030-0.

Phase 4: Phase 4 will continue mining with sweep ventilation until the mine works are well inby the location of 4 proposed overcasts. The overcasts will be then be cut and built and a third stopping line will be installed. Mining will then revert to split ventilation as shown on the Phase 4 map. Mining will be done utilizing MMU's 029-0 and 030-0.

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.

MSHA
MT. HOPE FIELD OFFICE
DEC 07 2007
RECEIVED
VENTILATION

Respectfully Submitted,



Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer

