

U. S. Department of Labor

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



DEC 27 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 December 27, 2005, which shows the proposed ventilation change for the Headgate 15A longwall panel. Controls are proposed to be installed and removed to direct a portion of the longwall return air out the current tailgate and into the gob at the mouth of old Headgate 12 and Headgate 11.

As stipulated in the submittal letter, evaluation points EP-40, EP-40A, EP-HG 14-1 and EP-HG 14-2 will be examined and recorded for quality, quantity and direction each shift and the quantity of return air directed outby in the HG-15A panel tailgate will be limited to a maximum of 40,000 cfm. The revision change is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated December 27, 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/ JESSE P. COLE

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

cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3 encl.)
Files/dac

Initials JEC/RSK Date 12/27/05

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Cole".

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

December 27, 2005

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 permission direct a portion of the return air off Panel 15A longwall face outby and into Headgates 11 and 12. The longwall has not had a good fall yet and are having difficulty getting sufficient air velocity to the tailgate. Sending a portion of the return out the tailgate will assure sufficient air velocity at the tail. EP readings are **PROPOSED AS FOLLOWS:**

EP 20		9,000 -EP 40 *	* THESE EP's WILL BE EXAMINED EACH SHIFT FOR AIR QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DIRECTION, IF THE METHANE LEVEL AT ANY OF THESE EP's EXCEEDS 1%, PRODUCTION WILL CEASE AND ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE VENTILATION.
EP 21	35,000	4,000 -EP 40A *	
EP 31	4,000	9,000 -HG14 EP1*	
EP 22(HG 12)	10,000	4,000 -HG14 EP 2*	
EP 39 (HG 14)	38,000		
HG 15 Intake		82,250	
EP 41 (HG 16)		6,150	
EP 42 (HG17)		7,340	
EP 43 (HG 18)		5,638	
EP 50 (HG 19)		7,816	
HG 20 intake		35,020	

The air quantity going outby from the longwall tailgate is 40,000.

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.

changes made by GEORGE LEVO

ON 12-27-05,

Respectfully Submitted,

Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer