

MAR 27 2009



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 February 18, 2009, showing the controls to be installed and removed in order to make the necessary ventilation changes when the active Tailgate No. 1 North section (040-0 MMU) completes the connection to Headgate No. 1 North and the section is relocated to mining projections in the Panel No. 1 Crossover, and subsequently in the Panel No. 2 Crossover. As noted on Map 2, the Headgate No. 1 North section (003-0 MMU) is to be idled during the connection from Tailgate No. 1 North. The revision is shown on three (3) portions of the mine map submitted with the request, all dated February 17, 2009, showing the current ventilation, ventilation during mining of Panel No. 1 Crossover and the ventilation during mining of the Panel No. 2 Crossover.

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 maps. Please be advised that the stopping line, separating the #4 and #5 entries of Tailgate No. 1 North and shown to be partially removed on Map 2 in order to make a common air split, will need to be re-established in its entirety prior to operation of the first longwall panel. This should be addressed in a subsequent revision submittal that shows the proposed ventilation and evaluation of the first longwall panel.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/s/ ROBERT G. HARDMAN

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

Cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3incl.)/ Files/nlc

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Initials RLC 3/27/09 Date 3/26

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
P. O. Box 69
Naoma, WV 25140

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "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

February 18, 2009

Mr. Robert G. Hardman
Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880

Re: Performance Coal Company
Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID : 46-08436
State ID: U-3042-92
Ventilation Revision

MSHA
MOUNT HOPE, WV

FEB 18 2008

RECEIVED
VENTILATION

Dear Sir:

Please find the enclosed ventilation revision for the Upper Big Branch Mine for your review and approval. This submittal includes three maps depicting different ventilation schemes at different times in the mining cycle. Map one shows the ventilation at the current time. Map two shows the proposed ventilation for mining the Panel No. 1 Crossover once the Tailgate No. 1 North and the Headgate No. 1 North are cut together. Map three depicts the ventilation to be used once the Panel No. 1 Crossover is completed and mining begins on Headgate No. 2 North.

Once Tailgate No. 1 North and Headgate No. 1 North are connected, the section will be relocated to begin mining the Panel No. 1 Crossover. Intake air for mining this panel will be supplied via the original right return for the tailgate. The areas outby the Panel No. 1 Crossover will be ventilated with air from the section mining the Headgate No. 1 North heading outby. This ventilation scheme is shown on map two.

When the Panel No. 1 Crossover is completed the section will move north to mine the Panel No. 2 Crossover before beginning to mine the Headgate No. 2 North. When this move occurs, the Panel No. 1 Crossover will be ventilated with intake air. When the section begins to mine Headgate No. 2 North, the left return of the Panel No. 2 Crossover becomes secondary intake air. The ventilation schemes for mining this area is shown on map three.

This mine currently has no miner's representative. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at (304) 854-3516.

Respectfully Submitted,
Performance Coal Company, Inc.

Eric Lilly
Mine Engineer