

U. S. Department of Labor

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



JUL 21 2009

Mr. Chris Blanchard  
President  
Performance Coal Company  
POB 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, dated July 17, 2009, and received by MSHA on July 17, 2009, for the subject mine. The proposed revision is to convert the No. 1 Headgate Section of the Upper Big Branch Mine from split air to sweep air and to make approximately 700 feet of the No. 1 Entry of the headgate common with the belt entry. In addition, once the pilot hole for the airshaft has been reached, the left return split will be reactivated and regulated to 9,000 cfm, allowing a split of intake air to ventilate across the shaft bottom and down the left return to allow ventilation for shaft raising.

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved ventilation plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the sketch.

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

Sincerely,

**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 *RHC* Date *7/17/09*



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Mr. Chris Blanchard  
President  
Performance Coal Company  
POB 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, dated July 17, 2009, and received by MSHA on July 17, 2009, for the subject mine. The proposed revision is to convert the No. 1 Headgate Section of the Upper Big Branch Mine from split air to sweep air and to make approximately 700 feet of the No. 1 Entry of the headgate common with the belt entry. In addition, once the pilot hole for the airshaft has been reached, the left return split will be reactivated and regulated to 9,000 cfm, allowing a split of intake air to ventilate across the shaft bottom and down the left return to allow ventilation for shaft raising.

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved ventilation plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the sketch.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Hardman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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



# Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

July 17, 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

Dear Sir:

Please find the enclosed ventilation revision for our Upper Big Branch Mine for your review and approval. This revision is to convert the No. 1 North Headgate Section of the Upper Big Branch Mine from split air to sweep air and also to make approximately 700ft of the No.1 Entry of the headgate common with the belt entry.

Once the pilot hole for the airshaft has been reached, the left return split will be reactivated and regulated to 9,000 CFM. A split of intake air will be sent across the shaft bottom and down the left return to allow for ventilation for shaft raising. Inby the pilot hole the section will continue to mine to the proposed dewater site using sweep air going to the right return.

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

**MSHA  
MOUNT HOPE, WV**

**JUL 17 2009**

**RECEIVED  
VENTILATION**