

U. S. Department of Labor

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



JAN 31 2006

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 January 10, 2006, which shows the proposed ventilation for the mining of new continuous miner projections near the mouth of Headgate 18. The ventilation change is depicted on three (3) portions of the mine map, labeled "Before Mining", "Ventilation During Mining" and "Ventilation After Mining", dated January 10, 2006, and submitted with the revision 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 ✓

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials BR
Date 1-31-06

U. S. Department of Labor

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



JAN 31 2006

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

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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact William L. Ross at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

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

January 31, 2006

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 submitting the attached mining and ventilation projections for Headgate 18. It will be mined with double split ventilation and both returns will be dumped into the longwall bleeder. The right return will be dumped into Headgate 18 and the left return will be dumped into Headgate 19.

Mining will not start until Headgate 20 section has finished mining and the new EP in HG 20 is reduced to a minimum. The quantity of air from each miner section return will not exceed 20,000 cfm. Attached for your review are three maps: HG 18 before, during and after mining. Also included is an informational map showing air readings before and after a fan blade adjustment and a timeline showing the projected locations of mining units until the longwall finishes.

Performance Coal is committed to do whatever is necessary to assure that the water level in the mine is not adversely affecting the ventilation. This letter serves not only as a cover letter for mining in Headgate 18 but also is to become a part of the bleeder system evaluation for this mine.

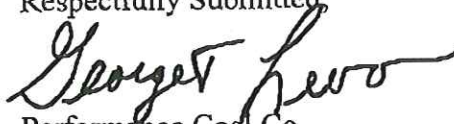
As a matter of information to you, this hole is cased from the surface to 5' or 6' into the mine floor with the bottom 20' of it perforated to allow water flow into the casing. The drill hole did not hit any other mine voids when the hole was drilled. As a matter of further information, when the pump was originally installed, it was pumping through a combination of 12", 10" and 8" waterlines for a distance of approximately 3,600' and +70' vertically and pumped 1,100 gpm. The pump is now pumping through app. 1,700' of 12" and 10" pipe and is pumping 500-600 gpm with a vertical head of -100'. Also, at the top of the well head, air is being sucked down the well pipe and into the mine which is a good indication that the water is not roofed and that there is an insufficient amount of water in this vicinity to be able to pump a full pipe.

On a weekly basis, Performance Coal will monitor this water level and record the results in a book. Until we determine whether or not the bubbler system is the problem, we will use whatever other means available to determine the water level including, but not limited to, replacing the bubbler or drilling a water level monitoring well.

When the Headgate 18 miner unit starts mining, the tailgate of the longwall will be continuously monitored to assure that the air splits at the tail and to assure that there is not a build up of methane on the tail. This area will be monitored for the duration of remaining mining of longwall panel 15A.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George T. Levo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer

P. O. Box 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Performance Coal

Fax

To: Bill Ross

From: George Levo

Fax: 877-3927

Pages: 2 + cover

Phone: 877-3900

Date: 1/31/2006

Re: Requested letter changes

CC:

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

● **Comments:**

*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO	3710
CONNECTION TEL	9p13048543529
CONNECTION ID	
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PGS.	2
RESULT	OK



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100 Bluestone Road
Mt. Hope, WV 25880

Phone: (304) 877-3900
Fax: (304) 877-3927

FAX MESSAGE

TO: George Levo - Bill Potter
FROM: Doris Chambers
DATE: 1/31/2006
SUBJECT: Attached approval 4608436

FAX TO
G. Levo @
854-3529
2-1-06

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

May your day be Blessed!

Ventilation Department:

Map Room	Ext. 143
William Ross	Ext. 142
David Morris	Ext. 159
Doris Chambers	Ext. 140
Ronnie Joe Dooley	Ext. 128
Raymond Browning	Ext. 128

