

U. S. Department of Labor

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



APR 15 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(a), 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 April 7, 2005, which shows the proposed controls to be installed and removed in order to convert a portion of the number 1 and 2 entries of the North East Mains, from the surface portal inby to Headgate 16, from intake to return air. The proposed change is shown on a portion of the mine map, also dated April 7, 2005, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse P. Cole", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

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

U. S. Department of Labor

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



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Sincerely,

/s/ Richard J. Kline

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

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

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Initials *WLR for BR* Date *4/14/05*
AK 4/15/05



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

April 7, 2005

Mr. Jesse 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 currently putting both section returns from the Lower Big Branch section into the longwall bleeder at Headgates 15 and 16. We propose to reroute the majority of this return air to the outside to the main portal while continuing to inject enough of the return into the Headgates 15 and 16 EP's such that they continue to be functional. This proposed change will relieve the pressure on the section belt and track as well as the mainline belts and track and reduce the amount of intake air needed for the Lower Big Branch section. It will also allow more air to be injected into the longwall bleeder in other locations as necessary. The proposed changes are shown on the attached map.

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,

Performance Coal Co.
George T. Levo
Mining Engineer

