



OCT 05 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 October 4, 2005, which includes a revised Page 1, of a ventilation supplement that was previously approved on August 12, 2005. The revised page includes changes in the procedures and safety precautions for drilling an 8 1/2 inch diameter pilot hole down and through the Elk Run Coal Company's Castle Mine (I.D. No. 46-07009) and into Upper Big Branch Mine. Additionally, a 14 inch diameter borehole will subsequently be raise-bored from the Upper Big Branch Mine, up through the Castle Mine, and through a sealed portion of Elk Run Coal Company's Black King I Mine in the Lower Cedar Grove seam.

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,

W/ William Ross

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	10-5-05

U. S. Department of Labor

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



OCT 05 2005

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

Dear Mr. Potter:

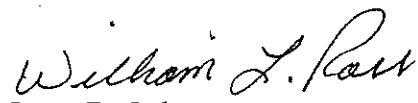
Subject: Mine Ventilation Plan, Section 75.370, 30 CFR 75, Upper
Big Branch Mine-South, I.D. No. 46-08436, Performance
Coal Company, Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia

This will acknowledge receipt of a revision to the ventilation plan, submitted to this office and dated October 4, 2005, which includes a revised Page 1, of a ventilation supplement that was previously approved on August 12, 2005. The revised page includes changes in the procedures and safety precautions for drilling an 8 ½ inch diameter pilot hole down and through the Elk Run Coal Company's Castle Mine (I.D. No. 46-07009) and into Upper Big Branch Mine. Additionally, a 14 inch diameter borehole will subsequently be raise-bored from the Upper Big Branch Mine, up through the Castle Mine, and through a sealed portion of Elk Run Coal Company's Black King I Mine in the Lower Cedar Grove seam.

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,

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

October 4, 2005

Mr. Jesse Cole
District Manager
Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880

RE: Upper Big Branch Mine
State ID - U-3042-92
M.S.H.A. ID 46-08436
Revised Ventilation Supplement for Coal Transfer Shaft

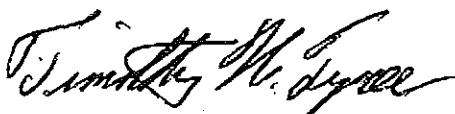
Dear Mr. Cole,

Enclosed please find a revised page 1 of a ventilation supplement. Our current approved plan states that the pilot hole will be cased off from all voids as it is drilled. We have cased the 1st 500 feet of the hole down through the abandoned Y&O mine in the Winifrede seam. When we drilled below the casing the pilot hole deviated from the required course. We then used a directional drilling company to steer an 8.5" hole back on course down into the floor of a sealed portion of our Black King I mine. When we attempted to ream this hole to 18" (which would allow casing to be run) the hole deviated off course in the same direction as the first. The drilling contractor believes that further attempts would result in similar deviations.

The attached plan shows directional drilling of an 8.5" hole on into the Upper Big Branch Mine. There the bit will be changed to 14". This will allow the pilot hole to be raise bored to the usable diameter. The attached plan shows that the Lower Cedar Grove seam was verified by camera for water and how air seperation between the seams will be accomplished.

If you should need any additional information or have any further question please feel free to contact me at the above referenced phone number.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Tyree
Mine Engineer

**Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID 46-08436
STATE ID U-3042-92
Coal Transfer Shaft
Ventilation Supplement
Revised Page (10/4/2005)
Pilot Hole**

1. The first 500 feet of the pilot hole will be steel cased.
2. An 8.5" directionally steered hole was drilled into the floor of the Black King I mine. A camera was lowered into the hole. The video verified that no impounded water exists at the location of the hole.
3. The pilot hole will drill into the Castle mine where mining has already occurred. Access to this area will be dangered off during drilling. Once drilling breaks through into the Castle mine preshift examinations will begin and continue through out the process.
4. The pilot hole will drill into the Eagle seam where mining has already occurred. Access to this area will be dangered off during drilling. Once drilling breaks through into the Upper Big Branch mine preshift examinations will begin and continue through out the process.
5. The 8.5" bit on the drill steel will be changed to a 14" reaming bit. This bit will be used to raisebore the 14" pilot hole up to the 18" steel casing (500 foot from the surface).
6. During all times either drill steel or a packer will exist in the hole between the Castle mine and the sealed area of the Black King I mine above. When it is necessary to install or remove a packer the area will be constantly monitored for direction and quality (methane and oxygen).
7. After reaming the pilot hole to 14" between the UBB mine and the Castle mine a cap with a valve for sampling will be installed over the pilot hole in the floor of the Castle mine. The 14" hole will proceed to be enlarged above the Castle mine. The hole can be enlarged until it is 5 feet below the Black King mine floor. A packer will then be installed in the roof of the Castle mine. Then the hole can be enlarged the remainder of the distance.
8. The raise bore drill rig will be installed on the surface. Before the drill string for the raise bore is lowered through the Castle mine roof the packer will be removed. Checks will be made for direction and quality before the packer is removed. Before the drill string can be lowered below the Castle mine floor the cap separating the Castle and UBB mines will be removed. The air will be sampled before the cap is removed. Then the drill string will be extended down into the Upper Big Branch Mine. Air ventilating the area will be directed into the return.
9. The raise bore will then excavate the shaft between the 2 seams. See page 2 for raise bore details.
10. After the raise bore drill string has been removed above the Castle mine, but still extends down below the Lower Cedar Grove seam, a packer will be installed. The hole will then be grouted off above the Castle Mine.

PILOT HOLE

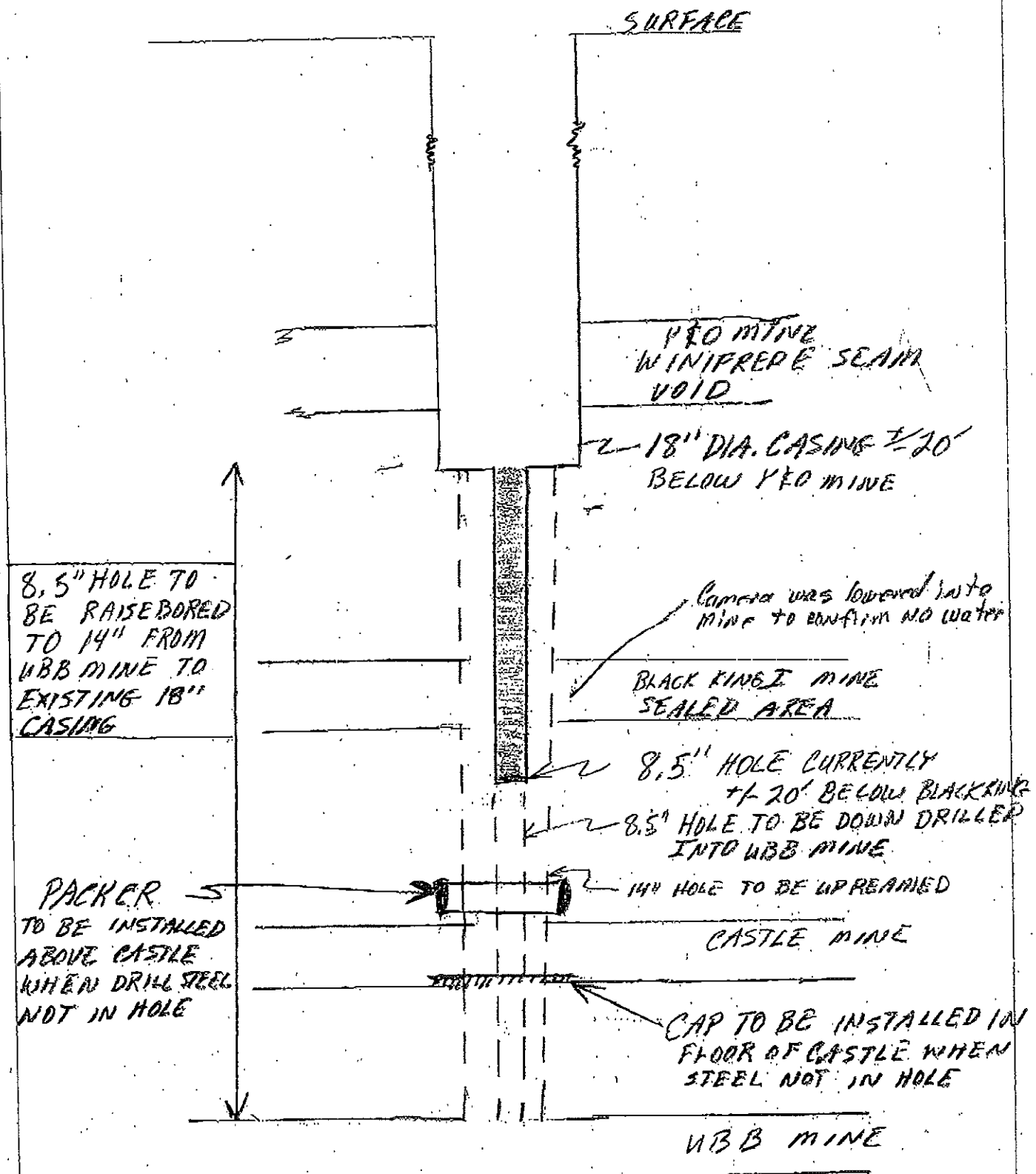
10-5-05

SKETCH - NOT TO SCALE

UBB MINE
MSHA ID 46-08436
STATE ID U-3042-92

CASTLE MINE
MSHA ID 46-07007
STATE ID D-11373

22-141 50 SHEETS
22-142 100 SHEETS
22-144 200 SHEETS



8.5" HOLE TO BE RAISEBORED TO 14" FROM UBB MINE TO EXISTING 18" CASING

18" DIA. CASING ± 20' BELOW PRO MINE

Camera was lowered into mine to confirm no water

BLACK KING I MINE SEALED AREA

8.5" HOLE CURRENTLY ± 20' BELOW BLACK KING

8.5" HOLE TO BE DOWN DRILLED INTO UBB MINE

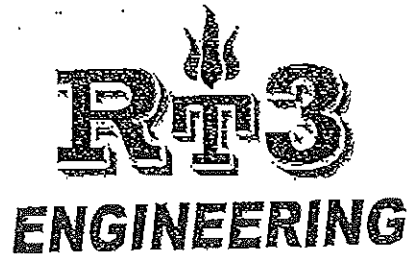
144 HOLE TO BE UP REARED

PACKER TO BE INSTALLED ABOVE CASTLE WHEN DRILL STEEL NOT IN HOLE

CASTLE MINE

CAP TO BE INSTALLED IN FLOOR OF CASTLE WHEN STEEL NOT IN HOLE

UBB MINE



Marfork Coal Company
 Elk Run Coal Company
 Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69
 Naoma, WV 25140
 Ph: 854-1761
 Mining Dept. Fax: 854-3529
 Permitting Dept. Fax: 854-3528

FAX

To: BILL ROSS From: TIM TYREE
 Fax: _____ Date: _____
 Phone: _____ Pages: _____
 Re: _____ CC: _____

- Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments: *PLEASE REVIEW UBB PILOT HOLE PLAN
 AFTER WE FINALIZE AN IDENTICAL
 PLAN WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE
 CASTLE MINE
 A SKETCH IS INCLUDED TO
 CLARIFY*