

U. S. Department of Labor

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



SEP 02 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 August 12, 2005, which shows the proposed change in direction for the return air from the active Lower Big Branch mining unit. A portion of the return is to be redirected to the surface, at the main portals, and will exit at the No. 5 drift opening. As stated in your submittal letter, the quantity of return air now entering the bleeder system at evaluation points EP-40 and EP-41 will be reduced as a result of this change and the bleeder system is to be re-evaluated after the revision is implemented. The proposed revision is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated August 8, 2005, and submitted with the 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/ 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 BR
Date 9-2-05
9/2/05

U. S. Department of Labor

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



SEP 02 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 August 12, 2005, which shows the proposed change in direction for the return air from the active Lower Big Branch mining unit. A portion of the return is to be redirected to the surface, at the main portals, and will exit at the No. 5 drift opening. As stated in your submittal letter, the quantity of return air now entering the bleeder system at evaluation points EP-40 and EP-41 will be reduced as a result of this change and the bleeder system is to be re-evaluated after the revision is implemented. The proposed revision is shown on a portion of the mine map, dated August 8, 2005, and submitted with the 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 a large, stylized, light-colored scribble or watermark.

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

August 8, 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. These proposed changes will relieve the pressure on the section belt and track air 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.

The current air quantity traveling into Headgate 16 (EP 41) is 19,940 cfm. Anticipated quantity into EP 41 after these air changes are made is approximately 5,000 cfm. The current air quantity traveling into Headgate 15 (EP 40) is 17,750 cfm. Anticipated quantity into EP 40 after these air changes are made is approximately 5,000 cfm.

At the #5 portal adjacent to the main mine fan, a barrier will be built along the left side and front of the portal canopy so that the new return will be diverted away from the intake to the blowing main fan.

This proposed air change will be made on an idle shift. After this change is made, the longwall bleeder system will be re-evaluated to assure that air quantities at all EP are adequate.

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

