

U. S. Department of Labor

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



SEP 20 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 September 8, 2005, which shows an addendum to a plan which was approved on August 12, 2005. That plan included safety precautions and procedures for raise-drilling a coal-transfer shaft from the North Mains section of the subject mine to the Glory Hole Mains section of the Elk Run Coal Company's Castle Mine (46-07009). This revision consists of a revised page 1 for that plan and is necessary due to a change in the mining sequence for the development around the transfer shaft.

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 BRC
Date 9-15-05
pk 9/20/05

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jesse Cole", is positioned above the typed name.

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

**Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID 46-08436
STATE ID U-3042-92
Coal Transfer Shaft
Ventilation Supplement
Revised Page (9/7/2005)
Pilot Hole**

1. If voids are encountered while drilling the pilot hole, drilling will be stopped a maximum of 50 feet below the floor of the void.
2. The voids will be sealed off from the pilot hole by either a steel or concrete casing. Drilling can continue once the void has been confirmed to be sealed off.
3. The pilot hole will drill into the Castle mine where mining has already occurred. Access to this area will be dangerous 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 dangerous during drilling. Once drilling breaks through into the Upper Big Branch mine preshift examinations will begin and continue through out the process.
5. After completing the pilot hole the pilot hole drill string will be removed. A cap with valve for sampling will be installed over the pilot hole in the floor of the Castle mine.
6. The raise bore drill rig will be installed on the surface. Before the drill string for the raise bore is installed between the 2 mines the cap between the seams 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
7. The raise bore will then excavate the shaft between the 2 seams. See page 2 for raise bore details.
8. 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.