



AUG 06 2009

Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
POB 69
Naoma, WV 25140

Dear Mr. Blanchard:

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 the 3rd submittal of a revision to the ventilation plan, dated July 28, 2009, and received by MSHA on August 06, 2009, for the subject mine. The revision requests to show the ventilation scheme for the future long wall mining and ventilation for gate road entries, cross over entries, and bleeder entries; shows the installation of a bleeder fan for the proposed Northern district bleeder system; shows the ventilation changes in the Old North Mains and Parallel North Mains areas when the bleeder fan installation is complete as shown on three (3) phase portions of the mine map, dated July 28, 2009, and submitted with the request.

The revision is hereby approved and will be made a part of the approved ventilation plan for this mine. This approval is limited to the requested changes as described in the submittal letter and narrative and shown on the attached maps. Please be advised that water in the isolated return entries must be controlled to allow weekly examinations per 30 CFR-75.364.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the Ventilation Department at (304) 877-3900/Ext. 142.

Sincerely,

/s/ ROBERT G. HARDMAN

Robert G. Hardman
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4

Cc: Mt. Hope Field Office (3incl.)/ Files/nlc

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Initials *RLC* Date *8/6/09*
jm *8/16*



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President
Performance Coal Company
POB 69
Naoma, WV 25140

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Hardman", is written over the typed name.

Robert G. Hardman
District Manager
Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 4



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

July 28, 2009

Mr. Robert G. Hardman
Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880

Re: Performance Coal Company
Upper Big Branch Mine
MSHA ID : 46-08436
State ID: U-3042-92
Ventilation Revision

Dear Sir:

Attached for your review and approval is a revision to Performance Coal Company's, Upper Big Branch Mine (46-08436).

This revision consists of three phases.

Phase one depicts the ventilation scheme during the development of the proposed Northern District coal reserves for future longwall mining and the proposed ventilation for gateroad entries, cross over entries, and bleeder entries. Also depicted in phase one is the activation of the bleeder fan for continued development and anticipated airflow directions and quantities, prior to the retreat mining of the No. 1 North Longwall Panel.

Prior to the exhausting fan being placed into service the Panel No. 1 Crossover will be mined under the approved ventilation revision dated July 27, 2009. Once the exhausting fan is placed in service the ventilation scheme for mining the crossover will reflect what is shown on the attached Phase One Map.

Phase two depicts the ventilation scheme for further development of the Northern Districts and the start-up and activation of the No. 1 North Longwall Panel, the establishment of bleeder evaluation check points along the active longwall face (MP's and EP's), the surface EP at the top of the Bleeder return shaft, and the necessary ventilation controls to be installed/removed to complete the change as shown on the map.

Also shown on phase two is the sequence of mining the Panel No. 2 and Panel No. 3 Crossovers as well as the sequencing for mining Headgate 2 and Headgate 3.

Phase one and phase two may occur concurrently provided the following precautions are followed:

- Crossover #1 will mine to within 50' of cut-through, at this time MSHA will be notified of the mining status.

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- Longwall will be idled and power will be disconnected until the cut-through is completed.

Phase three shows the ventilation scheme for mining Headgate 2 and Headgate 3 once the Panel No. 2 and Panel No. 3 Crossovers are completed. At this time the Panel 3 crossover will be ventilated by return air in the number 4 entry and neutral air in the number 1, 2, and 3 entries. The air from all four entries will enter the right return of the section mining Headgate No. 2.

Also attached is a description of the Northern District Longwall Bleeder System as shown on the Line Diagram Map and proposed evaluation and maintenance of the bleeder system. Four typical face sketches have also been included.

Once the exhausting fan is placed in service in the mine, the ventilation of the Lower Big Branch Portion of the Mine (LBB2 #1, LBB2 #2, LBB2 #3, LBB2 #4) will change from intake to return. The area will be ventilated using a split of intake entering from Parallel North Mains and by air entering at EP-8.

When the exhausting fan is placed in service it will cause air to switch direction and begin entering at the Birchtown Portals. The return entry from the active section along the Parallel Old North Panel will become an additional intake from the Birchtown Portals once the fan is placed in service. This entry will be made common with the other intakes in the Parallel Old North Panel before it splits off to sweep around the glory hole and enter the return air split. The air in the neutral entries along the #4 North and #5 North belts will also change direction and begin to flow inby rather than outby.

All air changes will be made on an idle shift after the exhausting fan has been put in service. Air changes will be made following 30CFR 75.324. Once the changes have been made, a thorough examination of the mine and ventilation system will be completed and recorded. The district manager will be notified when the exhausting fan is placed in service and the results of the ventilation change will be submitted.

This mine currently has no miner's representative. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at (304) 854-3516.

Respectfully Submitted,
Performance Coal Company, Inc.



Eric Lilly
Mine Engineer

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Northern District Longwall Bleeder System

The overall bleeder system for the Northern District will consist of a total of five longwall panels. The panel lengths vary due to the lay of the coal reserves.

The bleeder design and panel development layout typically utilizes three or four entry gateroads. Bleeder entries are developed across the back-end of each longwall panel, separate from the longwall set-up entries. This design allows for proper evaluation of individual panels.

The ventilation of the initial longwall panel and the subsequent panels in this district will direct air through the headgate entries, across the longwall face, into the tailgate entries, and then into the bleeder entries. The air will exit out of the bleeder entries at the bleeder return airshaft.

Water Control:

The water in the Northern District will be controlled by natural drainage and dewatering systems currently in place in the mine. Water in the bleeder entries and gateroads will be pumped to a central location within the district and removed from the mine via deep-well turbine pumps.

Water in the area of the dewatering pumps will not be allowed to reach a depth great enough to block travel of personnel or air flow.

Roof Control:

The immediate and main mine roof will be supported in accordance with the approved roof control plan. Additional supplementary roof support, which may consist of cribs, jacks, post, propsetters or other approved roof support material, will be installed in the bleeder entries as necessary to maintain these airways throughout the life of the bleeder system.

Bleeder System Evaluation:

The bleeder system is designed to maintain positive ventilating pressure against the gob while providing an adequate quantity and quality of air to the longwall face. This system will allow for effective ventilation of the gob area as each panel is mined and to prevent and minimize methane accumulation within the bleeder system. As the air exits the longwall face and enters the tailgate it will split and the air will travel inby into the gob and outby for at least one crosscut before entering the bleeder system.

Bleeder evaluation checkpoints, Evaluation Points (EP's), and Monitoring Points (MP's), will be established and maintained within the bleeder system district as each longwall panel is completed. EP's and MP's will be established in the headgate and tailgate entries of the retreating longwall face, to assure proper air flow quality and quantity. These checkpoints will be located inby on the headgate side and outby on the tailgate. During mining the EP's LW - 1 and LW - 2 and MP's A and B will move outby as the longwall face advances (See Typical Longwall Face Sketch).

MP's will also be established along the headgate entries, starting at the set-up face and at intervals of approximately 2,000 feet. These MP's will become active once the

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Northern District Longwall Bleeder System

longwall face passes by the pre-established points (See Longwall Bleeder Map). These MP's will assure proper airflow inby the longwall face headgate entries. These points will be established on each consecutive longwall panel and will remain part of the bleeder system evaluation and will be examined on a weekly basis, until the active panel is completed.

Doors will be maintained from the active tailgate entry into the adjacent longwall bleeder entries in order to determine air quality in the adjacent longwall gob. In order to facilitate safe inspection, supplemental support will be installed on 4ft centers from the door to the bleeder entry. These MP's will be maintained no more than 3,000ft apart. Measurements will be taken at these locations until the active longwall retreats outby these points.

As each longwall panel is completed, bleeder evaluation check points will be established in the existing gateroads just outby the longwall recovery face. Stoppings and regulators will be installed in the entries and adjusted for proper airflow direction and quantity. EP's will also be established at the back end of each active and mined out longwall panel as the district is developed. These EP's will be examined weekly for proper airflow direction, air quality, air quantity, and methane and oxygen content. The information obtained during the weekly exam shall determine the effectiveness of the bleeder system. EP's are located at strategic locations to allow a thorough review and evaluation of the bleeder system. The locations of these points are shown on the Line Diagram Map.

Should methane levels increase by 1% or more at an EP between weekly examinations, the mine management shall immediately evaluate the entire bleeder system.

Additional intake air to assist in the dilution of methane gas being liberated along the longwall face during mining will be supplied from the belt entry. This additional air quantity will also help remove respirable rock and coal dust away from the longwall face. The belt air will be monitored and comply with 30 CFR 75-350. Pyatt Boone (Model 980A and 1703 or equivalent) CO monitors will be installed to comply with 30 CFR 75-351.

Proposed and estimated air quantities are shown on the accompanying maps. Once the bleeder fan is activated, and proposed ventilation controls are installed and/or removed an evaluation of the bleeder system's Northern District will be conducted to assure intended airflow direction and air quantities.

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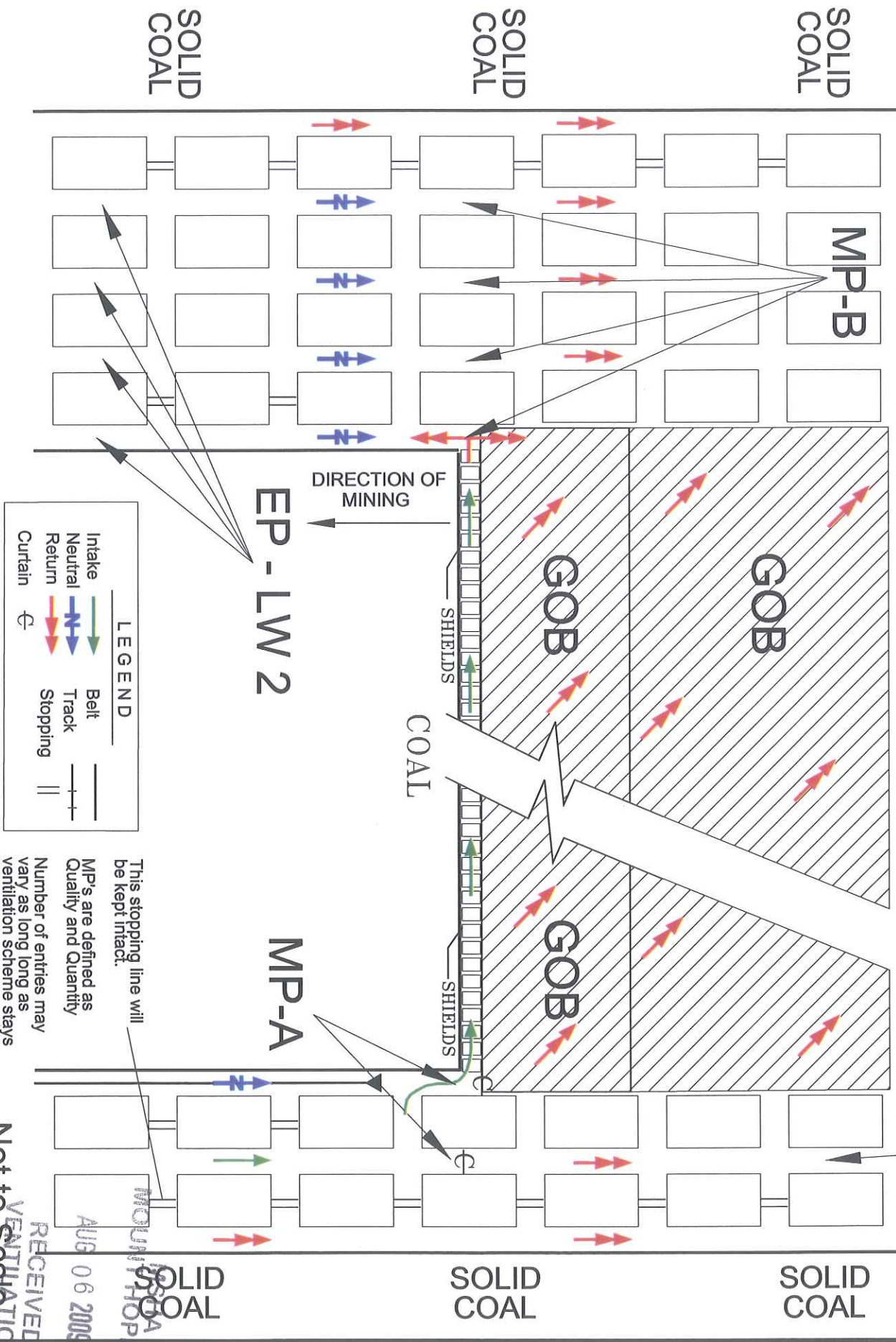
TYPICAL LONGWALL FACE VENTILATION

Performance Coal Company

Upper Big Branch Mine 46-08436 (U-3042-92)

No. 1 North Panel (Belt Air)

EP - LW1



This stopping line will be kept intact. MP's are defined as Quality and Quantity. Number of entries may vary as long long as ventilation scheme stays the same.

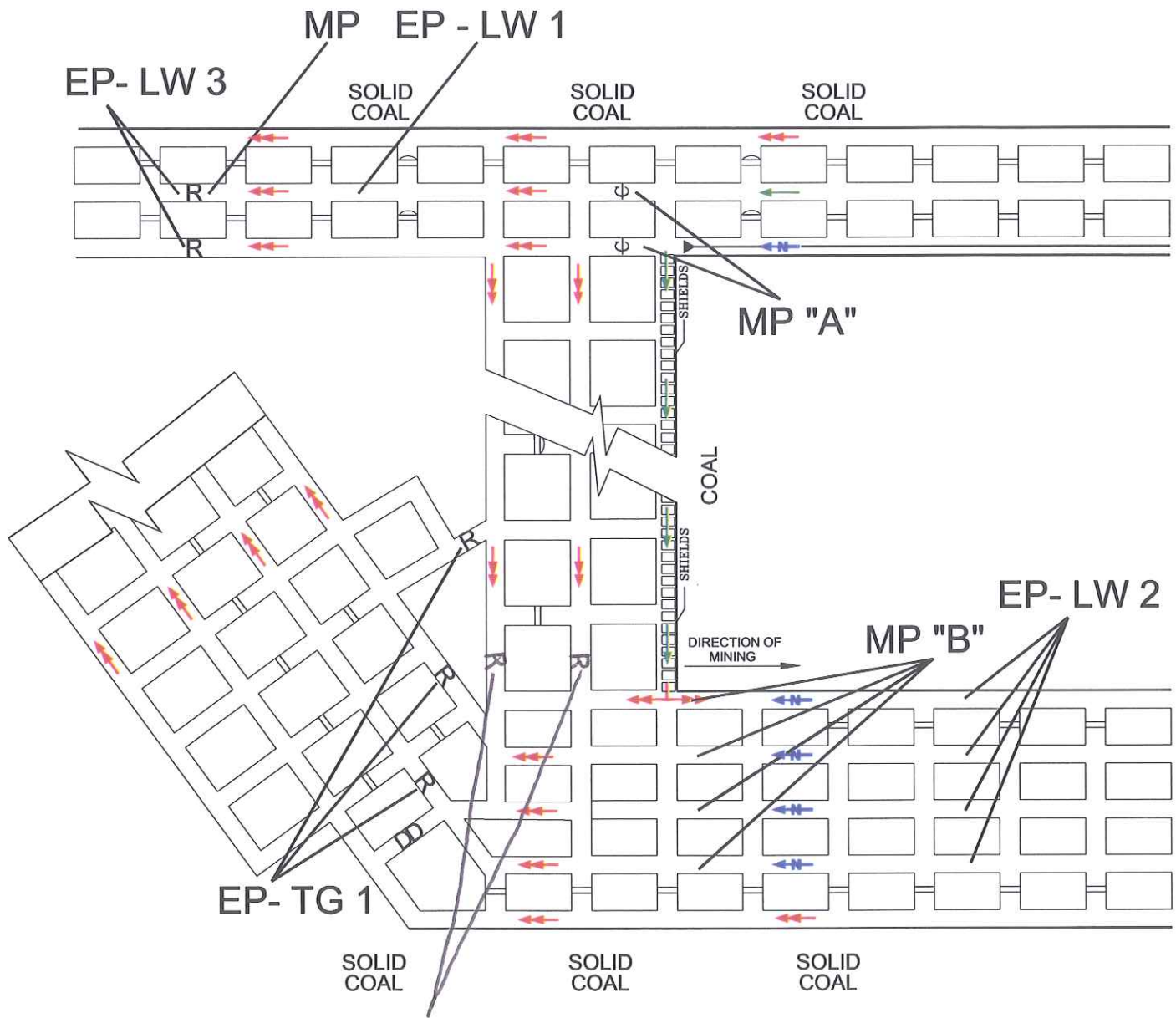
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MOUNTAIN VIEW, WV
Not to Scale

TYPICAL LONGWALL FACE VENTILATION

Performance Coal Company

Upper Big Branch Mine 46-08436 (U-3042-92)

No. 1 North Panel Start-Up



LEGEND			
Intake	→ (Green arrow)	Belt	— (Black line)
Neutral	→ (Blue arrow)	Track	—+— (Black line with dashes)
Return	→ (Red arrow)	Stopping	(Two vertical bars)
Curtain	⊕ (Circle with cross)	Man Door	D (Vertical bar with D)

MP's are defined as Quality and Quantity
 Number of entries may vary as long long as ventilation scheme stays the same.

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AUG 06 2009

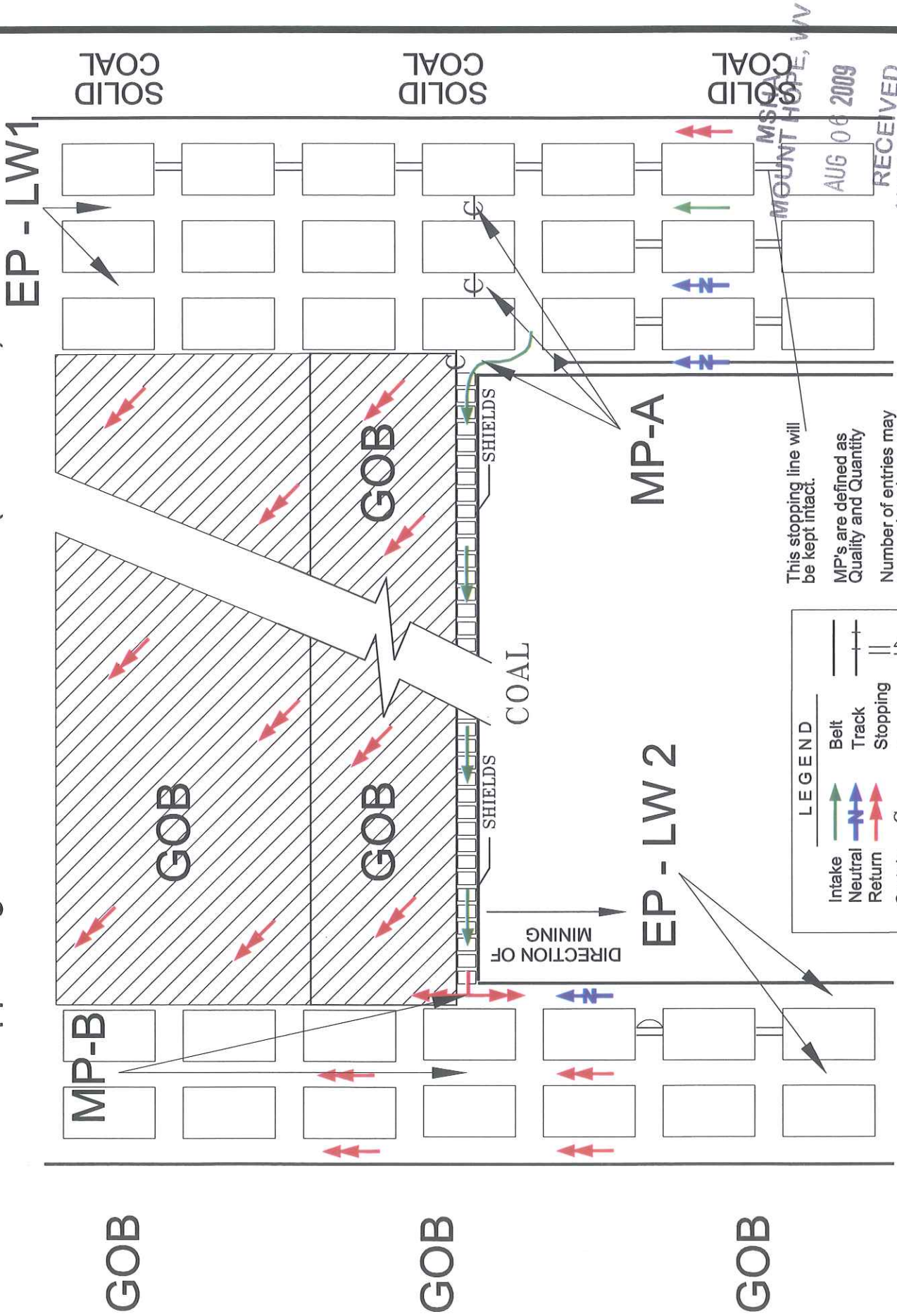
RECEIVED VENTILATION

Not to Scale

TYPICAL LONGWALL FACE VENTILATION

Performance Coal Company

Upper Big Branch Mine 46-08436 (U-3042-92)



This stopping line will be kept intact.
 MP's are defined as Quality and Quantity
 Number of entries may vary as long as ventilation scheme stays the same.

LEGEND	
Intake	Green arrow pointing right
Neutral	Blue arrow pointing right
Return	Red arrow pointing right
Curtain	Circle with a horizontal line through it
Belt	Horizontal line with a vertical tick mark
Track	Horizontal line with two vertical tick marks
Stopping	Horizontal line with a vertical bar across it
Door	Vertical line with a semi-circle at the top

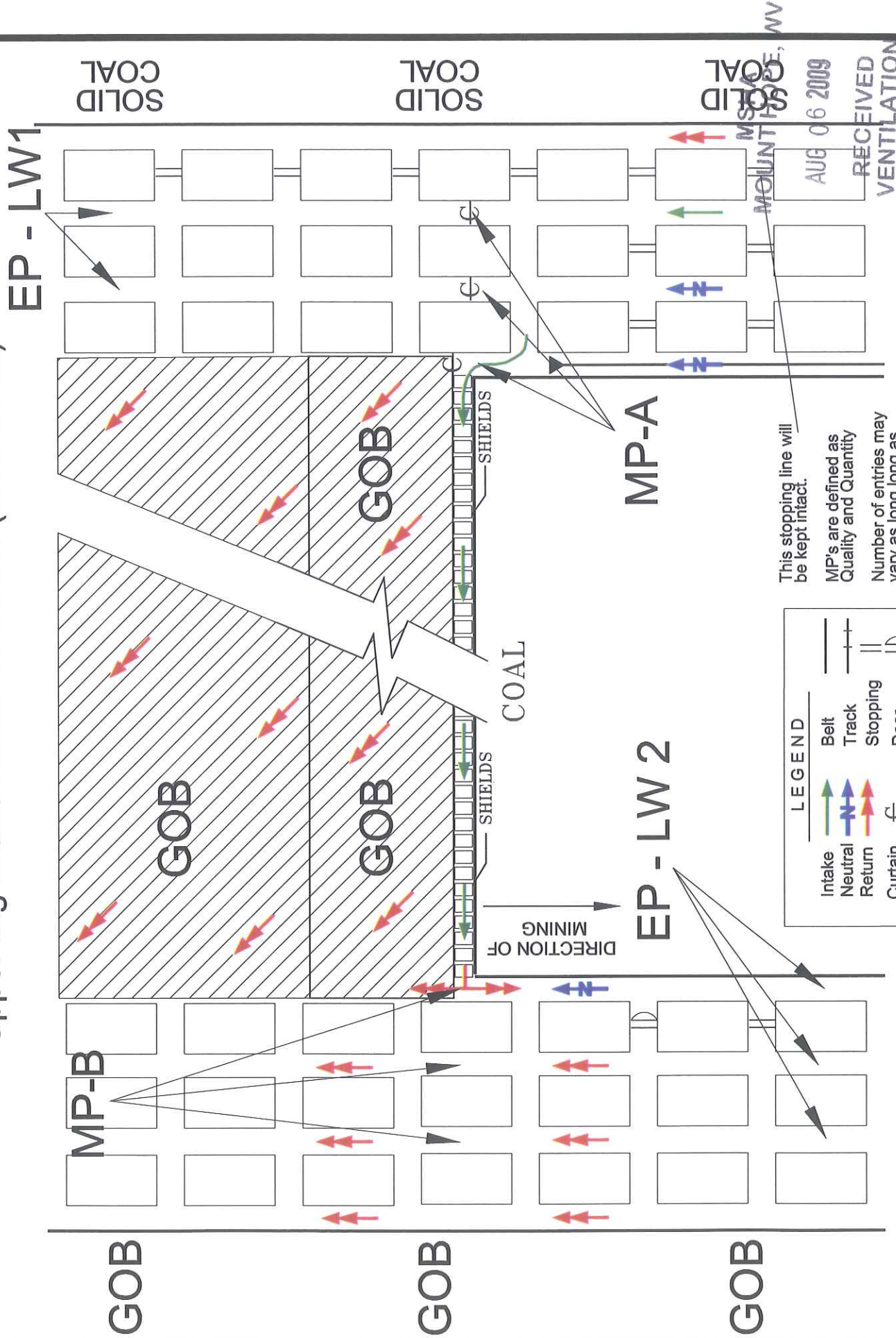
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VENTILATION
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TYPICAL LONGWALL FACE VENTILATION

Performance Coal Company

Upper Big Branch Mine 46-08436 (U-3042-92)



This stopping line will be kept intact.
 MP's are defined as Quality and Quantity
 Number of entries may vary as long as ventilation scheme stays the same.

LEGEND	
	Intake
	Neutral
	Return
	Curtain
	Door
	Belt
	Track
	Stopping

Not to Scale