



SEP 04 2009

Mr. Chris Blanchard
President
Performance Coal Company
P. O. Box 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 a revision to the ventilation plan, dated September 3, 2009, and received by MSHA on September 4, 2009, for the subject mine. The proposed revision shows three regulators constructed in intake overcasts to cause intake air to course the Ellis Mains, a portion of the Ellis Mains converted to a neutral air course, controls to be constructed to reduce the potential of contaminants entering the mine from excavation work, and air quantities for intake and neutral regulators to stabilize neutral air flow.

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 change as described in the submittal letter and shown on the portion of the mine map. Please be reminded that a previous revision concerning the excavation of the portals, which includes safety precautions to prevent exposure of miners to hazards associated with this activity, remains in effect.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard J. Kline

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

Cc: Mount Hope field office (3 copies)
Files / nlc

SUPERVISORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Initials *RK* Date *9/4/09*
Initials *Jm* Date *9/4*

U. S. Department of Labor

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



SEP 04 2009

Eric Lilly
9-4-09

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President
Performance Coal Company
P. O. Box 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 word "Sincerely,".

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



Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

September 3, 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:

Please find the attached ventilation revision for your review and approval. Note, three intake regulators were built on the intake overcasts in order to force air to intake from the Ellis Mains and to bring neutral air in at the portals. Also, the number three entry of the Ellis Mains has been converted to a neutral air course due to the portal being blocked by material from the excavation of the highwall. This entry will be reopened and converted back into an intake entry within approximately 6 weeks. When the entry is reopened the regulator between entries one and two will be replaced by a solid stopping to separate the entries.

Also shown on this revision is the actual location of a set of doors, a stopping, and a regulator that were constructed outby the approved location. The ventilation scheme in this area is the same as it was approved on the revision dated August 6, 2009.

There is currently no miner's representative at the Upper Big Branch Mine. This plan will be posted at the mine office at time of submittal. 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

MSHA
MOUNT HOPE, WV
SEP 03 2009
RECEIVED
VENTILATION