



**DEC 23 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 ventilation revision dated and received by MSHA on December 23, 2009. The ventilation revision describes the issues resulting from the attempt to implement the December 18 belt air reversal approval and subsequent actions to limit the exposure to miners from belt air and commits to a long-term belt air elimination plan.

The revision is hereby approved and will become a part of the approved plan for this mine. The approval is limited to the requested changes as described in the submittal.

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

Sincerely,

**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 RLH Date 12/23/09

U. S. Department of Labor

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



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

*Chris Blanchard*  
received by  
12/23/09

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*Robert G. Hardman*

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



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President  
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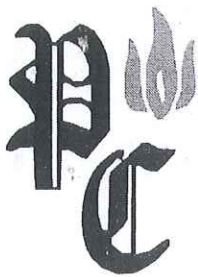
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Hardman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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



# Performance Coal Company

P.O. Box 69

Naoma, WV

25140

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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

Dear Sir:

On December 18<sup>th</sup> a ventilation plan was approved by your office. On December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> this plan was attempted to be implemented. Due to the influence of the longwall bleeder fan it was not possible to make the approved changes.

Please find attached an interim ventilation revision to allow the belt air to course towards the longwall face. Belt air will travel inby from near crosscut 25 on the 1 North Headgate. The remainder of the belt air will travel outby through a belt regulator and into the return.

The below procedures will be followed during the time while belt air is being utilized in the face of the 1 North Longwall panel.

1. The entire length of the belt conveyor system from the split point inby to the longwall face will be traveled every two hours. Results of this examination will be communicated to the longwall foreman at the end of each inspection.
2. A box check will be installed at the longwall tailpiece and near the 029-0 MMU belt drive to limit the quantity of belt air traveling inby.
3. All personnel working on the 1 North longwall panel will be informed of this ventilation change.

In addition, within 30 days of approval, a long term ventilation plan will be submitted to your office which will show long term solutions to allow belt air to travel outby as well as to open more intake air courses.

These safety precautions will ensure equal or greater protection for members working on the longwall section.

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,

Chris Blanchard  
President

MSHA  
MOUNT HOPE, WV  
DEC 23 2009  
RECEIVED  
VENTILATION

MSHA  
MOUNT HOPE, WV  
DEC 23 2009  
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VENTILATION