



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bureau of Mine Safety

Updated 2.6.12

RE: Guidelines for Plans for Opening a New Industrial Minerals Underground Mine

Following are guidelines when planning to open a new underground mine:

Procure all necessary permits from the appropriate District Mining Office, Air Quality, local municipality, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, etc.

1. Forward mine opening plan and Anthracite & Industrial Minerals Plan Routing Slip to Pottsville office for review and approval from the Director of Bureau of Mine Safety.

At a minimum plan should include:

- a) Portal canopy construction – include drawings and description of construction materials.
 - b) Number of portal entries. Include height, width, distance to first crosscut and shot design.
 - c) Detailed explanation of what type mining methods (same as submitted in Module 15.5).
 - d) Ventilation plan.
 - e) Plan for roof control.
 - f) Plan for mine drainage. (same as Module 15.5)
 - g) Emergency Response Plan (same as submitted to MSHA) and include provision for Mine Families First Act.
 - h) MSHA ID number if known.
 - i) Mine electrical plan. New electrical substations must meet PA guidelines and be approved.
 - j) List of equipment to be used underground. (same as Module 15.5 and Ventilation Plan)
 - k) Type of communications system.
 - l) Safety zones for gas wells or adjacent mining.
 - m) Operator's questionnaire form must be submitted prior to start of mining.
2. Other consideration should be given to the following:
 - a) A Pennsylvania certified mine foreman must be present for each shift while employees are underground.
 - b) All blasting must be done by a Pennsylvania licensed blaster.
 - c) Explosive magazines must be licensed and approved.
 - d) Prior to placing explosive magazines underground, magazines and location must be approved by Bureau of Mine Safety.
 - e) Future ventilation of mine 5-20 years.

Contact Alan Martin, Electrical Engineer Supervisor, Bureau of Mine Safety, (724-439-7461) or visit our website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/deepminesafety> regarding approvals of mine electrical system equipment.

Contact this office at 570-621-3139 for packet of useful information and forms.