
WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF MINES ENERGY
CHAPTER 22-41
SERIES 6
(1969)

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING OPEN PIT MINES, EXCLUSIVE OF
SURFACE MINES

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RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING OPEN PIT MINES, EXCLUSIVE OF SURFACE MINES

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Title 38
Legislative Rule

1.1 Scope -
use
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language

~~WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS~~ e
DEPARTMENT OF MINES ENERGY
~~Chapter (22-4-1)~~ e
~~(1969)~~ e
Series 6

Subject: Rules and Regulations Governing Open Pit Mines, Exclusive of Surface Mines.

Section 1. General

1.01.² Authority - These rules and regulations are issued under authority of West Virginia Code, Chapter 22A, Article 3 6, Section 3, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 29A, Article 3, of the West Virginia Code.

1.02. Effective Date These rules and regulations were promulgated on the 11th day of August, 1969, and became effective on the 11th day of September, 1969.

1.03. Filing Date - These rules and regulations were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on the 11th day of August, 1969.

Section 2. Excavating

2.01. Highwall overburden shall be sloped to minimize slides and overhanging ledges and all loose material scaled.

2.02. If the highwall shows evidence of movement, or appears to be weakened in any way, the area shall be made safe or abandoned and dangered off.

2.03. When open pit mines work at night, the vicinity in which the work is performed shall be well illuminated.

2.04. When an open pit mine is worked over an underground mine, the interval between mines shall be adequate to insure the safety of persons in the mine.

2.05. In the event of the collapse of the floor of an open pit mine into an underground mine, both mines shall be immediately closed, until this condition is made safe.

2.06. Persons scaling highwalls shall wear a safety harness that is adequately secured.

2.07. Blasted materials shall be loaded in such a manner as to minimize the danger of rock slides endangering workmen.

Section 3. Drilling

- 3.01. While a drill is operating, the operator shall not leave the machine.
- 3.02. Employees shall keep in the clear of any drill stem while it is in motion.
- 3.03. When a churn drill or a vertical rotary drill is used, the driller shall not work under its suspended tools.
- 3.04. Vertical drillholes shall be blocked before moving the drill to a new location.
- 3.05. Drilling equipment shall be inspected daily and hazardous defects corrected promptly.

Section 4. Explosives and Blasting

- 4.01. Permissible explosives applicable to local conditions shall be used exclusively.
- 4.02. Primers shall not be made up until the charge is ready to be inserted in the hole. All holes, or series of holes, containing electric detonators shall be fired immediately after being charged or at end of shift: Provided, however, that if, for any reason, the holes cannot be fired immediately or at end of shift, all work shall cease within a radius of 200 feet of blast area, and work shall not commence again until the holes have been fired. This rule does not apply if primacord is used.
- 4.03. Frozen explosives shall not be used.
- 4.04. The shot firer shall wait 15 minutes before returning to a misfired shot, except when using an electric blasting cap.
- 4.05. Extra precaution shall be taken in recovering of the explosive and blasting cap from a misfired shot.
- 4.06. Immediately after each blast the shot firing cables shall be immediately disconnected from the blasting unit and shunted.
- 4.07. Explosives shall not be handled or used during an electrical storm.
- 4.08 Magazines shall be located at least two hundred (200) feet from the face and roadway an out of the line of blasting.
- 4.09 Trailer vans may be used for the temporary storing of explosives: Provided, however, that it is located in accordance with the American Table of Distances to inhabited buildings, passenger railroads and public highways. The trailer vans shall be provided with substantial means for locking, and the doors shall be kept locked, except for the placement and removal of stock.

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4.10. Only competent persons designated by management shall handle explosives and do blasting.

4.11. Only electric detonators of proper strength shall be used and they must be fired with permissible shot firing units.

4.12. Drill holes shall be cleaned of cuttings before being charged.

4.13. Ample warning shall be given and care taken that all persons are in the clear before firing any shot.

4.14. After firing a shot the shotfirer, or any other person, shall not return to the working face until the smoke has cleared.

4.15. The number of holes fired in any one round shall not exceed the limit of the permissible firing unit used.

4.16. The shot firing circuit shall be tested with a galvanometer before firing.

4.17. While bore holes are being charged, equipment shall not be operated in the immediate area.

4.18. All shooting shall be done at the end of the working shift.

4.19. Two-way radio on motor vehicles shall not be used in a mine while shots are being loaded.

4.20. Tamping poles shall be made of wood or other nonsparkable material.

4.21. Shooting stations shall be kept locked when not in use and only authorized persons shall have the keys.

4.22. Prill loading machines shall be of an approved type and equipped with static strip hose and grounded.

4.23. When caps and fuse are used an approved cap crimper shall be used.

4.24. When shots are fired by means of caps and fuse, two or more persons shall do the firing.

Section 5. Operation of Equipment

5.01. Operators of shovels, draglines, tractors, and head-end bucket loaders shall not operate such equipment when a person or persons are within proximity to be endangered.

5.02. Operators of equipment which have a dipper or bucket shall not swing the dipper or bucket over passing haulage units.

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5.03. The dipper of a shovel, or dragline, or head-end bucket loader shall always be swung over the body of the truck.

5.04. No person or persons shall remain in the cab of a truck while said truck is being loaded, unless the cab is shielded.

5.05. Workmen shall not get on or off draglines or shovels without first notifying the operator.

5.06. Before greasing or repairing a boom, the boom shall be lowered to permit the work to be performed from the ground, if the boom is not equipped with a handrail or ladder.

5.07. Operators shall practice good housekeeping.

5.08. Dump bodies of trucks shall be properly blocked when raised for any purpose except dumping.

Section 6. Fire Protection

6.01. Fire extinguishers of correct type and ample capacity shall be kept on each piece of mobile equipment and in all buildings.

6.02. Flammable liquids, such as oils, greases, gasoline and such other like materials, shall be stored in buildings, compartments, or closed containers used for this purpose only.

6.03. Smoking and use of open lights are prohibited in all places in which flammable materials are stored and in other places where there is a fire hazard.

6.04. The storage of surplus gasoline, oil, or other fuels, other than that which is in the fuel tank, shall be prohibited on any piece of equipment, except diesel equipment using gasoline starting engines. In this instance one extra gallon of gasoline in an approved safety can (flash arresting screen with self-closing lid) may be stored on the equipment securely fastened in a specific location on the equipment out of the way of moving objects.

6.05. Flammable liquids shall not be used to clean machinery.

Section 7. Haulage

7.01. Traffic directions which differ from standard highway practice shall be posted on signs with letters at least two inches high along the haulage roads at strategic points.

7.02. Safety equipment on trucks shall be maintained in a safe operating condition.

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7.03. When dust created by haulage is thrown into suspension in quantities that obscure the vision of operators of vehicles, an adequate means shall be taken to allay such dust.

7.04 Haulage roads shall be constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with vehicular speed to insure safe operation.

7.05 Each haulage unit shall be equipped with an audible warning device.

7.06 When working at night, all mobile equipment shall be provided with headlights and back-up lights.

7.07 Only authorized persons shall ride haulage equipment.

7.08 Ample clearance shall be provided wherever supplies are loaded or unloaded.