

*Title 36  
Legislative Rules  
Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety*

~~WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS~~

~~DEPARTMENT OF MINES~~

~~CHAPTER 22-4~~

SERIES 7

SUBJECT: Rules and Regulations Governing Shortwall Mining Within the State of West Virginia

~~TYPE OF RULE:~~ LEGISLATIVE

Section 1. General

*1.1 scope - SAME*

1.01 Authority - These rules and regulations are issued under authority of the West Virginia Code, Chapter ~~22~~<sup>22A</sup>, Article ~~2A~~<sup>B</sup>, Section ~~4~~<sup>4</sup> of the West Virginia Code.

1.02 Effective Date - These rules and regulations were promulgated on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1980 and became effective on the 1 day of Dec, 1980.

1.03 Filing Date - These rules and regulations were filed in the Office of the Secretary of State on the 1 day of Nov, 1980.

1.04 Other Law Applicable - All provisions of the Mining Law of this state, specifically Chapter ~~22~~<sup>22A</sup>, Article ~~2~~<sup>1A</sup> of the Code are applicable to shortwall mining, except to the extent that these regulations cover the specific requirement.

Section 2. Effective Law and Regulation

2.01 These regulations shall have the effect of law and violations shall be deemed a violation of law and so cited with the same effect as law. All provisions of Chapter ~~22~~<sup>22A</sup>, Article ~~1~~<sup>1A</sup> of the West Virginia Code relative to enforcement are applicable to the enforcement of these regulations.

Section 3. Definitions

3.01 Department - The term "Department" shall mean the State Department of Mines provided for in Section ~~Two~~<sup>2</sup>, Article ~~One~~<sup>1A</sup>, Chapter ~~22~~<sup>22A</sup> of the West Virginia Code.

3.02 Approved - The term "Approved" shall mean in strict compliance with mining law, or in the absence of law, accepted by a recognized standardizing body or organization whose approval is generally recognized as authoritative on the subject.

3.03 Accessible Travel Route - "Accessible Travel Route" means an unobstructed passageway not less than 24 inches wide with reflective material at twenty-five foot intervals.

3.04 Retreat Shortwall Working Face - The term "Retreat Shortwall Working Face" shall mean a working place in a coal mine in which work of extracting coal from its natural deposit in the earth is performed during a mining cycle by a shortwall mining system.

3.05 Retreat Shortwall Working Section - The term "Retreat Shortwall Working Section" shall mean all areas from and including the section transformer to and including the shortwall working face.

3.06 Caving Line - The term "Caving Line" shall mean the line on the roof formed by the rear most projection of the roof support canopies once the shortwall section has started retreating.

Section 4. Plans for Shortwall Mining; Approval by Department of Mines

4.01 After the effective date of these rules and regulations, no shortwall mining shall be started in any coal mine until required plans for shortwall mining have been filed and approved by the Department of Mines, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. All revisions to such approved plans shall be resubmitted for approval to the Department of Mines.

Shortwall mining plans submitted for approval to the Department of Mines shall include the following:

- (A) Company Name
- (B) Mine Name
- (C) Mine Location
- (D) Mine Address
- (E) Telephone Number (Mine)
- (F) Name, Title and telephone number of person submitting plan.
- (G) Mine D Number
- (H) Shortwall Mining Roof Control Plan  
(All approved roof control plans for Shortwall mining sections shall include a plan indicating the roof support to be used and the working procedures to be followed when a cavity is encountered over chocks.
- (I) Ventilation Plan, which shall include the complete section and face ventilation controls and bleeder systems.
- (J) Methane and Dust Control Plan.

4.02 After approval of submitted plans has been obtained from the Department of Mines, as required in Section 4.01 and 4.02 of these rules and regulations, additional approvals for new shortwall sections will not be necessary; providing required plan initially approved and/or revised are complied with.

4.03 In coal mines where retreat shortwall mining section operations are in progress prior to the effective date of these rules and regulations, no new shortwall mining sections shall be started until required plans for shortwall mining have been filed and approved by the Department of Mines, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Section 5. Chock and/or Shield Recovery Plan from Shortwall Face;  
Approval by Department of Mines

5.01 The operator shall develop a plan for recovery of chocks and/or shields or other shortwall roof support. Such recovery shall not be initiated until such recovery plan is approved by the Department of Mines, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. All revisions to such approved plan shall be resubmitted for approval to the Department of Mines.

Section 6. Methane Examinations; Monitor: Face Area

6.01 The Director or his representative shall require an approved methane monitor to be installed on the continuous mining machine.

The methane monitor shall give warning automatically when the concentration of methane reaches a maximum percentage of not more than 1.0 volume per centum of methane.

The operator of any mine which shortwall mining is performed shall establish and adopt a definite maintenance program designed to keep such methane monitors operative and a written description of such program shall be available for inspection. At least once each month the methane monitors shall be checked for operation accuracy with a known methane air mixture and shall be calibrated as necessary. A record of calibration tests shall be kept in a book on the surface.

If the methane monitor on a shortwall mining section malfunctions, the operator shall have such monitor repaired within twelve hours. However, during the period of time the methane monitor is inoperative, the electric equipment shall not be operated for a longer period than ten minutes without an examination for methane gas, the two hour examinations as

required in section 7.02 of these rules and regulations shall be conducted on one hour intervals and air reading on the intake side of the shortwall face shall be collected on one hour intervals.

If for extraordinary reasons parts are unavailable to correct the malfunction on the methane monitor, within twelve hours, the operator shall notify the Department of Mines who will evaluate the circumstances.

If circumstances prevail to prevent the methane monitor from being repaired to operating condition, the Department of Mines may extend the above twelve hour time limit, providing the protection to the worker is not reduced.

If a malfunction to the methane monitor occurs on a shortwall working section, the supervisor on such shift shall indicate in his on-shift examination report, in the fire boss report books, the date and time such methane monitor malfunctioned.

6.02 It shall be the duty of the certified person designated by the mine foreman to supervise a shortwall section, to examine the shortwall face for hazards at least once every two hours during each coal producing shift or more often if necessary for safety. Such examinations shall include test for methane gas and oxygen deficiency. Such methane and oxygen deficiency examinations shall be made in at least one hundred foot intervals, between the headgate and tailgate. The initials, date, and time shall be recorded at the test locations.

Should one percent or more of methane gas be detected, the electrical equipment shall be immediately de-energized and the electrical power circuit then disconnected from the power supply until the place is pronounced safe by a certified person.

Section 7. Safety Provisions - Shortwall Section

7.01 All new face roof support units shall be equipped with adjacent unit controls unless units have a wide single canopy over each unit that protects the workman from falling material when operating unit controls from within the support of shield unit being removed.

7.02 After the effective date of these rules and regulations all new installed face roof support units shall be equipped with an outlet to facilitate measurement of the yield pressure.

7.03 Yield valves of the face roof support units shall be calibrated at least annually within 15 percent of the yield pressure specified in the approved roof control plan. A legible record of such calibrations of each valve shall be kept on the surface of the mine for at least 18 months and be available for inspection by interested persons.

Section 8. Cutting and Welding: Shortwall Mining

8.01 Prior to cutting and welding being performed on a shortwall section face methane gas examinations shall be made by a certified mine foreman-fire boss or assistant mine foreman-fire boss. Cutting and welding may only be performed when methane gas is less than one percent. A certified person as defined above shall be continuously present during all cutting and welding operations on the face.

8.02 When cutting and welding operations have been completed, a certified person as defined above shall search for fires and hot spots. If fires or hot spots are found, they shall be extinguished immediately.

Section 9. Shortwall Mining - General Requirements

9.01 All hydraulic line repairs shall be performed in accordance with the requirements of the manufacturer's specifications.

9.02 All hydraulic roof support units and associated apparatus on a shortwall working face shall be visually inspected at least once during each coal production shift by a qualified person. A written record of such examination shall be maintained on the surface.

Section 10. Shortwall Mining; First-Aid Equipment

10.01 First aid equipment required on each working section as defined in Chapter <sup>22A</sup>~~22~~, Article <sup>2</sup>~~2~~, Section <sup>59</sup>~~59~~ of the West Virginia Code shall be maintained in the headgate entry.

Section 11. Accessible Travel Route - Shortwall Mining Section

11.01 An accessible travel route shall be maintained at all times off of the tailgate end of the retreat shortwall working face.

However, when the tailgate travel routes become impassable, the shortwall operation shall cease immediately and all persons working on such shortwall section shall be familiarized of the procedures to follow for escape from such section.

After all shortwall section personnel have been familiarized to the procedures to follow for escape from the section, normal production of coal may resume.

The operator shall immediately notify the Department of Mines when such travel route becomes impassable.

The Department of Mines representative shall immediately upon notification establish a scheduled meeting with the operator and representatives of the miners at such mine.

Section 12. Training - Shortwall Mining Section

12.01 Training programs in the hazards of shortwall mining shall be submitted for approval to the Director of the Department of Mines.

The training program shall consist of the following:

- (A) Escapeway and Travel Routes
- (B) Ventilation
- (C) Roof Support
- (D) Location of First-Aid Equipment
- (E) Safety Rules for Shortwall Mining