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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety TITLE NUMBER: 36

RULE TYPE: Legislative CITE AUTHORITY: 22A-6-4

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 27

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Rules and Regulations Governing Surface Areas

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON November 14, 2007 AT 5:00 P.M. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Administrator
Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety
1615 Washington Street, East
Charleston, WV 25311

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.


Authorized Signature

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$4.00



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY

1615 Washington Street East • Charleston, West Virginia 25311-2126 • Telephone 304-957-2309 • Fax 304-558-6091

To: All Persons Interested in Rules and Regulations Constructed by
The Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety

From: James P. Bennett, Health and Safety Administrator

Subject: Rules and Regulations Governing Surface Areas

Date: October 11, 2007

Action: Proposed Rule- Title 36, Series 27, Section 14

Authority: WV Code §22A-6-4

The Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety is created pursuant to WV Code §22A-6-1.

Written comment period will end Wednesday November 14, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Comments should be addressed to:

Administrator
Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety
1615 Washington Street, East
Charleston, WV 25311

SUMMARY:

The Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety recognizes that coal and utility companies must share the same properties during the course of coal production and maintenance of utility projects. In the best interest of all parties and the health and welfare of the employees of the coal and utility companies an exchange of information pertaining to the location of gas lines is essential.

The proposed amendment (Section 14) to the current rule (§36-27) would require that gas companies shall mark gathering lines and that coal companies shall conduct gas line awareness training with their employees and contractors.

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SECRETARY OF STATE

TITLE 36

LEGISLATIVE RULE

BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY

SERIES 27

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING SURFACE AREAS

§36-27-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- Rules and Regulations Governing Surface Areas.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §22-6-4.

1.3. Filing Date. -- _____

1.4. Effective Date. -- _____

1.5. These rules and 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 Article 1, Chapter 22 of the Code, relative to enforcement, are applicable to the enforcement of these rules and regulations.

§36-27-2. Definitions.

2.1. "High voltage powerline" means any uninsulated suspended power conductor carrying high voltage.

2.2. "Lanyard" means a rope, suitable for supporting one person. One end is fastened to a safety belt or harness and the other end is secured to a substantial object or a safety line.

2.3. "Lifeline" means a rope, suitable for supporting one person, to which a lanyard or safety belt (or harness) is attached.

2.4. "Safety belt" means a device, usually worn around the waist, which, by reason of its attachment to a lanyard and lifeline for a structure, will prevent a worker from falling.

2.5. All other terms used in these rules and regulations, not defined herein, shall have the means set forth in W. Va. Code 22-1-1.

§36-27-3. Operating Equipment With Suspended Material.

3.1. All persons remain a safe distance from any supplies or materials while being raised, lowered or in transit, by a forklift, crane, or other equipment: Provided, that whenever it is necessary to have persons other than the equipment operator in the immediate vicinity of any such supplies, the loads shall be securely fastened by a chain or other device to the equipment handling the load in order to prevent the load from slipping or falling off the equipment.

§36-27-4. Protection From Falls From Elevated Areas.

4.1. Safety protection such as safety belts, lifelines, or lanyards to prevent a person from falling shall be provided at all times where the potential fall distance exceeds fifteen (15) feet, except that safety belts shall not be used where they are impractical or would pose a greater hazard.

4.2. Safety nets shall be provided when work places are more than twenty-five (25) feet above the ground where the use of ladders, scaffolds, catch platforms, temporary floors, safety lines, or safety belts are impractical.

§36-27-5. Safety Precautions on Coal Stockpiles.

5.1. The following requirements shall apply to all surface coal stockpiles with draw-off tunnel feeders underneath the coal storage area of the stockpile which discharge onto a conveyor belt:

(a) No person shall travel on foot or operate equipment on a coal stockpile or coal storage area directly over areas where underlying coal feeders are in place without a plan approving such activity by the Director, or his authorized representative. The Plan shall be submitted by the operator or the independent contractor performing the work, and shall be reviewed with all persons prior to work being done, and a record kept of such review.

(b) The Plan shall outline procedures to protect the health and safety of those who may have to travel on foot or operate equipment on a coal stockpile or coal storage area directly over areas where underlying coal feeders are in place. The minimum criteria for approval of the plan shall include:

(1) The equipment shall be equipped with an enclosed cab and doors and windows shall be closed and secured at all times the equipment is in operation. Beginning January 1, 2001 all mobile equipment manually operated on coal stockpiles, where there is a potential of the equipment falling into a cavity, shall be equipped with an enclosed cab fitted with chemically tempered glass and a window support system; provided however, that glass certified to withstand 40 psi may be installed without a window support system, provided that such glass is installed in a substantial frame. The Director of the Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training will approve all enclosed cabs pursuant to this section. The Director of the Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training may approve other types of glass and window frames or support system provided that an equal or greater amount of protection is afforded.

(2) The equipment shall have two-way communications and a back up communication system supplied on an independent power source.

(3) The equipment operator shall be provided with two self-contained self-rescuers.

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(4) A remote control device capable of stopping the flow of coal from the feeder and stop the coal coming onto the stockpile. Such device shall be tested weekly.

(5) A means of providing emergency lighting to the mobile equipment operator.

(6) Warning signs shall be posted at the entrances to all coal stockpiles with underlying coal feeders.

(7) No person shall travel on foot, except on an emergency basis, and only under direct supervision; they shall be secured by an overhead lifeline; and feeders shall be locked and tagged out.

(c) The operator shall establish rules for the safe procedures for breaking through cavities and for marking the feeder areas on the surface. A copy of the rules shall be submitted to the Director, Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training for approval. A copy of the approved rules shall be posted at the mine site, and all persons to perform such work shall be instructed in these procedures.

(d) Telephone or equivalent two-way communications shall be established between equipment operators working on stockpiles and those persons who are operating conveyors, feeders, and hoppers at storage piles (where more than one person performs these duties), in order to keep such equipment operators advised of the possibility of bridged material over a cavity in the stockpile.

§36-27-6. Working Around High-Voltage Powerlines.

6.1. Location of high-voltage powerlines. High-voltage powerlines located above surface work areas, driveways, haulageways, and railroad tracks shall be installed no less than fifteen (15) feet above ground.

6.2. Operation of equipment, minimum distance from high voltage lines.

(1) Equipment or machinery operated on the surface of any coal mine shall not be operated within ten (10) feet of an overhead powerline unless the line is deenergized and visibly grounded at the point of work, or unless insulating barriers not part of or an attachment to, the equipment have been erected to prevent physical contact with the lines. Where the voltage of overhead powerlines is sixty-nine thousand (69,000) volts or more, the minimum clearance between the lines and part of the equipment or load shall be: (Please see Table 36-27a).

(2) A person shall be designated to observe clearance of the equipment and give timely warning for all operations where it is difficult for the operator to maintain the desired clearance by visual means.

6.3. Movement of equipment; minimum distance for high voltage lines. When any part of any equipment operated on the surface of any coal mine is required to pass under or by any energized high-voltage powerline and the clearance between such equipment and powerline is less than that specified above, such powerlines shall be deenergized or other precautions shall be taken to prevent contact with the powerlines.

6.4. Deenergization of powerlines. Any overhead wire shall be considered to be an energized line unless and until the person owning such line or electrical utility authorities verifies that it is not an energized line and it has been visibly grounded.

§36-27-7. Tires and Repairs.

7.1. A safety tire rack, cage or equivalent protection shall be provided when inflating tires during installation on split rings or rims equipped with locking rings or similar devices. Tires shall be deflated before repairs on them are started, and means shall be provided to prevent wheel locking rims from creating a hazard during tire inflation. Different types and sizes of wheel rims in the same location shall be stored separate from each other.

§36-27-8. Crushers, Feeders, and Rotary Breakers.

8.1. No person shall be permitted to perform any work within the confines of the cargo space of a crusher, feeder, or rotary breaker unless such equipment has been deenergized and locked out.

§36-27-9. Machines with Movable Parts.

9.1. Ninety (90) days after the effective date of this section, machines with movable parts used at surface mines or surface areas of underground mines, which are capable of coming into contact with its operating controls or is capable of pinning the operator between the movable part and its controls, shall be equipped with a panic bar or suitable mechanical means to prevent such contact, or pinning of the operator.

§36-27-10. Seat Belts.

10.1. Each employee working in a surface coal mine or in the surface areas of an underground coal mine shall be required to wear seat belts in a vehicle where there is a danger of overturning and where roll protection is provided.

10.2. Seat belts shall be worn by all drivers of trucks, 5-ton or greater, while operating their trucks on surface mines and surface areas of underground mines.

§36-27-11. Transporting Compressed Gas Cylinders.

11.1. When tanks and cylinders are not used and they are being transported, they shall be securely mounted with regulators removed, cylinder valves closed and protective valve caps replaced, except in conformance with the following requirements:

(a) Cylinders shall remain in a substantially constructed compartment while the gauges are attached and shall be secured against movement.

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(b) The substantially constructed compartment shall be designed specifically for the mine maintenance vehicles carrying it; the cylinders shall be secured against movement and be placed at no greater than a 45 degree angle.

(c) The cylinder regulators, if not in enclosed compartments, shall be adequately covered to provide protection when regulators are left attached to cylinders.

(d) The substantially constructed compartments shall be secured to the mine maintenance vehicle in such a manner to prevent the entire compartment from overturning at any time.

(e) If the cylinders are being transported in closed compartments, the compartments shall be adequately ventilated, and all doors on the substantially constructed compartments shall be closed and secured when not in use.

(f) Cylinders, gauges, hoses, connectors, valve stems, and torches shall be checked for damage and proper fit by a qualified person immediately following transportation and prior to use.

(g) The cylinder valves shall be in a shut-off position, and the hoses relieved of pressure when not in use and when being transported.

(h) All substantially constructed compartments shall be approved by the Director or his authorized representative prior to initial use.

§36-27-12. Mirrors on Surface Operated Equipment.

12.1. When required by an authorized representative of the Director to enhance safe operation, adequate mirror(s) will be provided on surface mine equipment that operates at surface mines, surface areas of underground mines, preparation plants and loadouts.

Mirror(s) provided on equipment by manufacturers of said equipment shall be deemed adequate and in compliance with the regulations.

§36-27-13. Safety Devices on Surface Haulage Equipment.

13.1. Sixty (60) days after the effective date of this section all surface mines, surface areas of underground mines, which utilize or operate vehicles capable of carrying 100-tons or greater, which operate in close proximity of smaller vehicles, as identified in Section 13.1(a), shall implement the following enhancements in order to maximize the visibility of operators and coordination of equipment.

(a) All maintenance, service, foreman or other utility vehicles shall be equipped with strobe lights and/or whip antennas, or other suitable devices as approved by the Director, or to be escorted by a vehicle equipped with such devices. This requirement excludes employee vehicles that are traveling on designated access road(s) to and from work.

(b) Equipment operators of haulage vehicles capable of carrying 100-tons or greater shall conduct a complete walk around of the equipment before it is placed in operation at the beginning of the shift and anytime the operator dismounts the machine.

(c) Equipment operators of haulage vehicles capable of carrying 100-tons or greater shall sound an audible warning device three times before the machine is placed in operation, and after the machine has set idle while in operation for periods that exceed normal cycle times.

(d) Reflective numbers or other clearly distinguishable identification markers, at a minimum of at least five (5) inches in height or as approved by the Director or his authorized representative, shall be installed, in conspicuous places, on all four sides of all vehicles capable of carrying 100-tons or greater.

(e) All vehicles capable of carrying 100-tons or greater shall be equipped with two-way communications.

(f) At no time shall a smaller vehicle travel into a blind spot of a vehicle over 100-ton capacity without communicating with the operator of the larger vehicle and receiving positive confirmation from that operator that it is safe to approach.

All employees of the mine shall receive a briefing of these procedures within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this rule and these procedures shall be included in the employees annual retraining, newly hired miner training, and hazard training.

13.2. Within One Hundred and Eighty (180) days after the effective date of this section all trucks with a 230-ton capacity or greater on or around a surface mine or surface area of an underground mine will be equipped with a camera, approved by the Director or other devices approved by the Director and the Technical Review Committee, at the rear of the truck to reduce blind spot hazards.

13.3. Within One Year after the effective date of this section the West Virginia Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety will review the effectiveness of the cameras on the rear of the 230-ton capacity or greater off road haulage vehicles.

§36-27-14 Notification by Utility Companies.

14.1 Recognizing that coal and utility companies must share the same properties during the course of coal production and maintenance of utility projects, reasonable notice should be given by oil, gas and utility companies to the owner of the record or the occupant of the coal property or both when they are required to travel on said property.

(a) Work should routinely be scheduled one week in advance or as soon as practical in the case of an emergency. Notice should be given by personal delivery or certified mail by the oil, gas or utility company involved to the occupant of the coal property with an estimate of the period of time and location on the property where the said utility company will be performing work.

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(b) Any gas line shall be considered as being active unless the line has been cut, purged and capped on each end. Any gas well will be considered active, unless the well has been adequately plugged below the elevation of the intended work area. Documentation will be provided to show that the condition of the gas lines and/or wells is as described above.

(c) The gas company or other entity owning the lines or wells, shall locate and mark the lines and/or wells according to their all the provisions in 14.2.

(d) After work is completed the coal operator shall be notified by the utility company that all equipment and employees are accounted for.

14.2 All gas lines shall be located and identified by markers on the surface and plotted on a certified map in the mine office. All gas lines installed on or after the first day of January 2008 shall be plotted on a GPS map.

(a) The markers shall be no less than 36 inches in height above the ground level.

(b) Markers will be identified with a distinct, consistent, reflective marking at the top of the marker.

(c) The markers will be placed perpendicular (upright) to the location of the gas line.

(d) The markers will be placed 5 feet from the location of the gas line.

(e) The markers will be placed on both sides of the gas line at each marker location.

(f) The markers will be spaced at a maximum of 75 foot intervals along the gas line. There will be a guaranteed line of sight between those markers.

(g) Markers will be made of weather resistant durable material.

(h) Markers will be visible to persons on foot or in equipment from outside the defined zone. The defined zone is the area on both sides of and within 50 feet of the gas line.

(i) All possible access roads shall be clearly marked on both sides of the road and gated if traffic is unwarranted.

14.3 In areas where tree cutting and /or clearing operations are to be preformed the markers will be inspected after the operation is completed and any markers found to be missing or damaged will be replaced as needed.

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14.4 When tree removal activities must be conducted within 50 feet of the gas line, a grapple type excavator will be used to pick the fallen trees from the marked area. This work cannot be conducted unless the gas line is buried more than 2 feet below the surface and at no time will the ground be disturbed below the surface.

14.5 At no time will mining, excavation or equipment/vehicle operation occur within 50 feet of a gas line or well, except that, equipment/vehicles will be allowed to cross gas lines at designated crossings. Markers will be established around gas wells to identify this 50 foot zone. An exception to this will be in areas where pre-existing haul roads have been established along side known (surveyed) areas of the gas line, where the depth have been verified at a minimum of 3 feet. In these areas the road will be no closer than 5 feet to the gas line and additional material will be placed within this 5 foot area to prevent travel in this area. Additionally in these areas, markers will be placed every 59 feet which shows the location of these existing haul roads.

14.6 When there is a curve in a gas line, additional markers will be installed 5 feet from each side of the gas line and directly across from each other, at any location where any part of a gas line is located more than 5 feet from a straight line extending along the gas line, between the center of the gas line at one marker location and the center of the gas line at the next adjacent marked location.

14.7 Gas line awareness training shall be conducted with all personnel and resident contractors. This training shall be incorporated during the following sessions:

(a) Newly employed experienced miner

(b) Annual retraining

(c) Hazard training

(d) Contractor training

(e) Additionally, immediately after gas lines have been located, a special safety talk will be conducted with all persons on the property concerning gas line and gas well locations.

(f) Gas line locations will be discussed in safety talks, at least on a quarterly basis.

(g) Safety discussions will be held on gas line and gas well locations prior to moving into a new work area.