

WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

KEN HECHLER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

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1991 JUN -7 PM 1:38  
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE  
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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

CITE AUTHORITY: 22-6-4

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL \_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETIVE \_\_\_\_\_

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE 22-6-4

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES \_\_\_\_\_, NO X

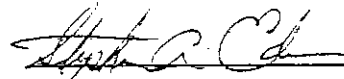
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: 43

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: Rules and Regulations Governing Remote  
Controlled Extended Or Deep Cut Mining Operations

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS July 8, 1991



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TITLE 36  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY  
SERIES 43

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

TITLE: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING REMOTE CONTROLLED EXTENDED OR DEEP-CUT MINING OPERATIONS

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36.43.1 General:

1.1 Scope: These rules and regulations apply to all working sections of underground coal mines utilizing remote controlled continuous mining machines, mining extended cuts or deep-cuts to a depth of face penetration which exceeds a normal cut. These rules and regulations do not apply to working sections wherein the continuous mining machine is remotely operated and taking normal cuts nor are they applicable at underground mining operations utilizing full face or partial face extraction methods wherein the mine roof is permanently supported as the mining machine advances beyond a normal cut.

1.2 Authority: WV Code §22-6-4c

1.3 Filing Date: These rules and regulations were filed with the Secretary of State this 7th day of June 1991.

1.4 Effective Date: These rules and regulations shall become effective on the 8th day of July 1991.

36.43.2 Definition:

2.1 For purposes of these rules and regulations a normal cut is hereby defined as the projected depth of face penetration or coal extraction by a continuous mining machine, measured from the furthestmost point of the machine cutting drum to the machine operating controls.

3. Requirements for Remote Controlled Extended or Deep-Cut Mining Operations; Special Consideration of Roof Control and Mine Ventilation Plans; Roof Bolting Procedures; Additional Precautions for Increased worker safety.

3.1 Required Roof Control and Methane and Dust Control Plans and the compatibility of each system shall be applied on a mine-by-mine basis.

3.2 During mining and place changing with remote control miners, all persons shall be positioned in an area that will afford protection to themselves and others from unsupported roof and moving equipment. The remote control unit shall not be placed on top of the mining machine and operated from this position.

3.3 All persons shall remain under permanently supported top at all times during the mining operations. While the continuous miner is in operation extracting coal, no person shall proceed inby the next to last row of permanent supports, provided however, that the inby edge of the canopy of manned face haulage equipment or the manned continuous miner may be advanced to the last row of permanent supports.

3.4 No person shall be inby the continuous miner operator's work position while coal is being mined unless he notifies the operator and can be located in a safe position. Exception: Equipment operator's transporting the material being cut/loaded.

3.5 In the event of a continuous miner breakdown that requires persons to go inby existing permanent roof support to make repairs, the unsupported area where practical, will be permanently supported and the remaining unsupported roof supported with temporary supports set on 5-foot centers lengthwise and crosswise where miners are present or working. However, to reset the continuous miner breaker, a minimum of two rows of temporary supports on five foot centers to the breaker will be required, unless the side of the machine where the breaker is located is five feet or less from the rib, one row of temporary supports located not more than five feet from the rib will be acceptable. The installation of temporary supports required by this section shall be performed under the direct supervision of a certified foreman.

3.6 A conspicuous reference mark or some other visual means shall be provided for the workers to determine when the maximum depth of cut is attained. (Chalk marks are not acceptable)

3.7 An approved ATRS System will be maintained and used during bolting operations.

3.8 When a sidecut is planned to be turned from any mine entry, permanent roof supports shall be installed inby the projected inby rib of the proposed sidecut for a distance of ten feet or totally supported if the distance is less.

3.9 Roof supports shall be installed in sequence and spacing specified in the approved roof control plan.

3.10 All openings of unsupported crosscuts shall be supported with at least two rows of temporary supports on 4-foot center (crosswise) across the openings prior to work or travel in the intersection. This does not prevent preshift and on shift examination.

3.11 When crosscuts, in excess of a normal cut are developed on a working section, no more than two open, unsupported adjacent crosscuts in direct line with one another shall be permitted.

3.12 Where adverse roof conditions are encountered, the depth of the cuts shall be reduced to a depth sufficient to effectively control the mine roof.

3.13 During the mining of a final push-out only those persons necessary shall be allowed in the area of the immediate intersection.

3.14 All remote control continuous miners shall be equipped with a strobe light or equivalent device to give warning when methane gas concentrations reach one percent or more. In addition, a device to remotely activate the fire suppression system and the water supply shall be provided on the remote control panel (unit) or at another remote location under supported roof.

3.15 Methane examinations shall be made according to the requirements of WV Code §22A-2-43.

3.16

(a) Face ventilation shall be established according to the approved ventilation plan and WV Code §22A-2-4. Air quality measurements to determine compliance with this requirement may be taken at the end of the line brattice or tubing.

(b) Notwithstanding WV Code §22a-2-4(f), during remote control deep-cut mining operations, crosscuts for air shall be made not more than 120 feet apart and working places shall not be advanced more than 50 feet inby the projected crosscut prior to its completion.

3.17 When the roof bolting cycle is started, the line brattice may be removed a sufficient distance to provide a safe work area and will be advanced as permanent supports are installed.

3.18 When flooded-bed scrubbers are used in conjunction with deep cut, remote mining, the scrubber screens shall be examined at least once each shift and cleaned if necessary. In addition, the entire scrubber will be examined after twenty four (24) production hours and cleaned if necessary.



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(Plus all the volunteer  
help we can get)

# STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

## SECRETARY OF STATE

Charleston 25305

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

1992 APR - 8 AM 7:58

FILED

TO: Dana Martin

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

FROM: JUDY COOPER, DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

DATE: March 19, 1992

THE ATTACHED RULE RECENTLY FILED BY YOUR AGENCY HAS BEEN ENTERED INTO OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM. PLEASE REVIEW, PROOF AND RETURN IT WITH ANY CORRECTIONS. IF THERE ARE NO CORRECTIONS, PLEASE SIGN THIS MEMO AND RETURN IT TO THIS OFFICE. YOU WILL BE SENT A FINAL VERSION OF THE RULE FOR YOUR RECORDS.

PLEASE RETURN EITHER THE CORRECTED RULE OR THIS FORM WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS OF THE DATE YOU RECEIVED THIS REQUEST. CALL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

SERIES: 43 TITLE: Rules and Regulations Governing Remote Controlled Extended or Deep-cut Mining Operations

\* THE ATTACHED RULE HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND IS CORRECT.

SIGNED: *Duglory*

TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING: ADMINISTRATOR of Enforcement

DATE: 3-30-92

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\* THE ATTACHED RULE HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND NEEDS CORRECTING. THE CORRECTIONS HAVE BEEN MARKED.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_