



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

79A

April 5, 2012

Mr. Brandon Williamson  
Mine Engineer, EI  
Consol Energy  
Bailey Mine Portal  
332 Enon Church Road  
West Finley, PA 15377

RE: TAC recommendation on a request from Bailey Mine for review and approval of a "Plan to Fuel Diesel Equipment in the Primary Intake Escapeway"

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Chapter 4 of the "Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act" (the Act) provides for the use of diesel-powered equipment in underground bituminous coal mines. Section 424 of the act created a Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") for the purpose of advising the Department regarding implementation of Chapter 4 and evaluation of alternative technology or methods for meeting the requirements of Chapter 4.

Section 411 of the Act ( Fueling) states "In those cases where fueling in the intake escapeway is necessary, the mine operator shall submit a plan for approval to the department, which shall be investigated by the Technical Advisory Committee in accordance with section 424, outlining the special safety precautions that will be taken to insure the protection of the miners...".

On October 10, 2011 the Department received a letter from Consol Pennsylvania Coal Company requesting approval of a "Plan for Diesel Refueling in Primary Intake Escapeway" at Bailey Mine.

On October 25, 2011 the Director requested the TAC to review and investigate the plan request and give a recommendation to the Director on their findings.

On November 22, 2011 the TAC traveled to Bailey Mine to conduct their investigation. They met with Bailey Mine Engineer Rob Robinson to review the plan and gather information for their recommendation.

The plan submitted and reviewed is site specific to the Bailey Mine, and not intended to establish guidelines for other mines. This TAC investigation and recommendation is only applicable to this plan at Bailey Mine.

The TAC investigation is guided by Section 411 (Fueling) of the Act as well as other pertinent sections. The TAC worked with all parties to develop a plan that incorporated special safety precautions to ensure the protection of miners and complied with all the requirements of the Act.

Mine specific safety features were considered during review of the fueling plan. These included the track haulage equipment and system, the mine communication system, and the mine wide carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring system being utilized at Bailey Mine.

After reviewing the mine map and based on conversations with the operator the TAC has determined that the mine design and entry configuration may make it necessary to conduct fueling in the intake escapeway at Bailey Mine.

As required in Section 411, the plan specifies there will be a fixed location in the intake escapeway where the fueling will occur, and the location will be identified by a sign and marked on the mine map. The plan addresses the examination of the area for spillage or fire by a qualified individual. The fuel buffalo will carry a spill cleanup kit that will include all necessary personal protective equipment as well as fuel absorbent materials. A qualified person, who is a trained diesel equipment operator, will serve as fire watch during fueling. Also there will be at least one individual on duty who will be trained in the clean-up and disposal of diesel fuel spills when diesel powered equipment or mobile transportation equipment is being used or when any fueling of diesel powered equipment is being conducted as required in Section 411.

The plan provides additional protection to the miners by maintaining a charged fire hose on the intake side of the fixed location of the fuel transfer, and a hand held foam generator will be provided on the Diesel Transportation Unit. Also the area where fuel transfer will take place will be well rockdusted and the roof and ribs will be protected with a fireproof barrier. Additional precautions for transporting the fuel buffalo, training of the persons conducting the transporting and fueling operations, length and construction of the fueling hose and communication procedures as stated in the plan also add additional protection for the miners.

The plan does not allow permanent storage of the fuel buffalo in the intake escapeway, and requires that it will be constantly attended by a trained diesel operator or will be stored in an area that complies with Section 405 of the Bituminous Coal Mining Laws of Pennsylvania.

The TAC believes that this plan will provide adequate protection to the miners when fuel transfer will take place in the intake escapeway and does not compromise the level of health and safety as required by the Act.

The TAC recommendation is based on the plan complying with Chapter 4 of the Act, conversations with the operator, observations made during the review of the mine map, communications and tracking system, and a review determining if the plan does not compromise the level of health and safety as provided by the Act.

The TAC thoroughly investigated this site-specific request and recommends approval of the attached plan (Attachment 1). The TAC believes this plan for Bailey Mine meets all the requirements of Section 411 and does not compromise the level of health and safety provided the miners under the Act and, therefore, recommends approval.

This recommendation for approval is only for the "Plan for Diesel Refueling in Primary Intake Escapeway" at Bailey Mine. It is not intended to establish guidelines for other mines. The TAC also recommends that all requests for fueling in the intake escapeway be handled on a mine by mine basis.

If you have any questions on this request, please contact Joseph Scaffoni at [jscaffoni@pa.gov](mailto:jscaffoni@pa.gov) or at 724-439-7461.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Scaffoni  
Director  
Bureau of Mine Safety

cc: Bowersox  
Borchick

Enclosure(s)

JAS/cd

bcc: Antoon  
Gaida  
Elias (web)  
Dunn/TAC file

\\epmsuns03\bms\$\AdvisoryCommittee\TAC - DIESEL LETTERS BY YEAR\2011\L\_TAC Bailey Mine - Plan to Refuel Diesel Equipment in the Primary Intake Escapeway.doc

796

**Pennsylvania Technical Advisory Committee  
On Diesel Powered Equipment**

**Paul Borchick**

(724) 485-4414 (Office)  
(412) 736-9105 (Cell)  
Email: paulborchick@consolenergy.com

**Ron Bowersox**

(724) 726-8987 (Home)  
(724) 479-8692 (Office)  
Email: unwarbowersox@yahoo.com

November 29, 2011

Joseph Scaffoni, Director  
Bureau of Mine Safety  
Fayette County Health Center  
100 New Salem Road, Room 167  
Uniontown, Pa. 15401

JAS  
ALM  
Antoon  
Guida  
dun/original

RE: TAC recommendation on a request from Bailey Mine for review and approval of a "Plan to Fuel Diesel Equipment in the Primary Intake Escapeway".

Dear Mr. Scaffoni:

Chapter 4 of the "Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act" (the Act) provides for the use of diesel-powered equipment in underground bituminous coal mines. Section 424 of the act created a Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") for the purpose of advising the Department regarding implementation of Chapter 4 and evaluation of alternative technology or methods for meeting the requirements of Chapter 4.

Section 411 of the Act ( Fueling) states "In those cases where fueling in the intake escapeway is necessary, the mine operator shall submit a plan for approval to the department, which shall be investigated by the Technical Advisory Committee in accordance with section 424, outlining the special safety precautions that will be taken to insure the protection of the miners...".

**Background**

On October 10, 2011 the Department received a letter from Consol Pennsylvania Coal Company requesting approval of a "Plan for Diesel Refueling in Primary Intake Escapeway" at Bailey Mine.

On October 25, 2011 the Director requested the TAC to review and investigate the plan request and give a recommendation to the Director on their findings.

On November 22, 2011 the TAC traveled to Bailey Mine to conduct their investigation.

## Investigation

On November 22, 2011 the TAC met with the Rob Robinson, Bailey Mine Engineer to review the plan and gather information for their recommendation.

The plan submitted and reviewed is site specific to the Bailey Mine, and not intended to establish guidelines for other mines. This TAC investigation and recommendation is only applicable to this plan at Bailey Mine.

The TAC investigation is guided by Section 411 (Fueling) of the Act as well as other pertinent sections. The TAC worked with all parties to develop a plan that incorporated special safety precautions to ensure the protection of miners and complied with all the requirements of the Act. Mine specific safety features were considered during review of the fueling plan. These included the track haulage equipment and system, the mine communication system, and the mine wide carbon monoxide (CO) monitoring system being utilized at Bailey Mine.

After reviewing the mine map and based on conversations with the operator the TAC has determined that the mine design and entry configuration may make it necessary to conduct fueling in the intake escapeway at Bailey Mine.

As required in Section 411, the plan specifies there will be a fixed location in the intake escapeway where the fueling will occur, and the location will be identified by a sign and marked on the mine map. The plan addresses the examination of the area for spillage or fire by a qualified individual. The fuel buffalo will carry a spill cleanup kit that will include all necessary personal protective equipment as well as fuel absorbent materials. A qualified person, who is a trained diesel equipment operator, will serve as fire watch during fueling. Also there will be at least one individual on duty who will be trained in the clean up and disposal of diesel fuel spills when diesel powered equipment or mobile transportation equipment is being used or when any fueling of diesel powered equipment is being conducted as required in Section 411.

The plan provides additional protection to the miners by maintaining a charged fire hose on the intake side of the fixed location of the fuel transfer, and a hand held foam generator will be provided on the Diesel Transportation Unit. Also the area where fuel transfer will take place will be well rockdusted and the roof and ribs will be protected with a fireproof barrier. Additional precautions for transporting the fuel buffalo, training of the persons conducting the transporting and fueling operations, length and construction of the fueling hose and communication procedures as stated in the plan also add additional protection for the miners.

The plan does not allow permanent storage of the fuel buffalo in the intake escapeway, and requires that it will be constantly attended by a trained diesel operator or will be stored in an area that complies with Section 405 of the Bituminous Coal Mining Laws of Pennsylvania.

The TAC believes that this plan will provide adequate protection to the miners when fuel transfer will take place in the intake escapeway and does not compromise the level of health and safety as required by the Act.

### Recommendation


The TAC recommendation is based on the plan complying with Chapter 4 of the Act, conversations with the operator, observations made during the review of the mine map, communications and tracking system, and a review determining if the plan does not compromise the level of health and safety as provided by the Act.

The TAC thoroughly investigated this site-specific request and recommends approval of the attached plan (Attachment 1). The TAC believes this plan for Bailey Mine meets all the requirements of Section 411 and does not compromise the level of health and safety provided the miners under the Act and, therefore, recommends approval.

This recommendation for approval is only for the "Plan for Diesel Refueling in Primary Intake Escapeway" at Bailey Mine. It is not intended to establish guidelines for other mines. The TAC also recommends that all requests for fueling in the intake escapeway be handled on a mine by mine basis.

Should the operator submit a request to the Director for temporary approval to implement this plan prior to the next TAC meeting on January 11, 2012, the TAC recommends temporary approval for the plan until permanent approval can be formally recommended at that meeting.

  
Paul Borchick

  
Ron Bowersox



Consol Pennsylvania Coal Company  
Bailey Mine-Crabapple Portal  
192 Crabapple Road.  
Wind Ridge, Pa 15380  
(724) 428-1217

November 28, 2011

**Joseph Sbaffoni**  
**District Manager**  
Pennsylvania DEP Bureau of Deep Mine Safety  
100 New Salem Road Room 167  
Uniontown, PA 15401

Re: Bailey Mine – Plan for Diesel Refueling in Primary Intake Escapeway

Dear Mr. Sbaffoni,

The following plan is being submitted for refueling of diesel powered equipment in the Primary Intake escapeway as required by section 411 (a) of the State Mining Law.

**Plan to Fuel Diesel Equipment in the Primary Intake Escapeway**

1. Locations for fueling in the intake escapeway will be designated by a sign, marked on the mine map, and will be well rock dusted. The roof and ribs will be protected with a fireproof barrier.
2. A charged fire hose will be provided on the Intake side of the designated fuel transfer point
3. A hand held foam generator will be provided on the approved mobile fuel Diesel Transportation Unit (DTU).
4. Prior to transporting the fuel buffalo (maximum 500 gallon capacity), a pre-op inspection will be conducted by a trained diesel operator to assure the firefighting equipment is present and in good working order.
5. Persons assigned to transport the fuel buffalo to the fueling location in the intake escapeway will be trained diesel equipment operators.
6. When fueling in the intake escapeway, the buffalo will carry a spill cleanup kit that will include all the necessary personal protective equipment as well as fuel absorbent material.
7. The responsible person during the time of fueling will be notified prior to, and immediately after the completion of fueling.
8. Prior to fueling, the fuel system i.e., hose, nozzle, etc. will be examined by the trained diesel equipment operator to assure the system is in safe working order.
9. A qualified, trained diesel equipment operator, will serve as a fire watch during fueling. After completion of fueling, he will conduct a visual examination for fire and fuel spillage. The designated fire watch will have the ability to communicate from the fueling location to the responsible person. A 20# fire extinguisher will be provided at the fueling location, while fueling operations are taking place.

ATTACHMENT 1-1



10. The fueling hose shall be of one piece construction not to exceed 200 feet in length.
11. This plan does not permit permanent storage of the fuel buffalo in the intake escapeway
12. The buffalo will be continuously attended by a trained diesel operator or will be stored in an area that complies with section 405 of the Bituminous Coal Mining Laws of Pennsylvania.
13. All other requirements of the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act shall apply.
14. This plan allows for the transfer of fuel in the intake escapeway provided all provisions of the plan are followed.

If you have any questions, please call (724) 428-1217

Sincerely,

Robert J. Robinson, PE  
Mine Engineer

Cc: E. Schubel, Mike Tennant