



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MINING PROGRAMS

OPERATIONS NARRATIVE

08/21

Equipment and Operation Plan [§87.62]

For each phase of mining, identify the type and method of mining; engineering techniques; major equipment to be used; starting and finishing point; and the anticipated sequence in which the phases are to be mined. Provide a description or explanation of the relative sequence of mining, including the relative timing of various phases and the estimated life of the mine. Phases should be numbered in the anticipated sequence to be mined and shown on the Operations Map.

The Railroad Strip is designed as a single phase operation with the existing Mine 78 Coal Preparation Plant located in the central portion of the operation. Given the multiple coal seams and coal quality mining activities will be tailored to meet current and future market demands and orders. Mining activities will be conducted in a manner so as not to exceed the liability of the posted bond. The type of mining will be block cut method with initial bond posted for two (2) active pits. If additional pits are needed the bond will be adjusted as necessary. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be constructed as needed. Major equipment to be used onsite will include various dozers, front-end loaders, excavators and rock trucks. Rotary drills will be used as necessary for shot holes in areas requiring blasting. Auger mining is being proposed on the Middle Kittanning, Lower Freeport, and Upper Freeport. The estimated life of the operation will range from three (3) to five (5) years.

Pit Dimensions [§87.62]

Identify the length and width of each cut and the maximum highwall height to be encountered.

Generally the length of the pit (sidewall to sidewall) will be 100 feet with the width of the pit (cropline to highwall) ranging from 100 feet to 250 feet.

Variance requested for backfilling and grading for more than 300 horizontal feet from the face of the highwall and more than 1500 linear feet of pit open at one time?

Yes (Justification is provided <upload>) No

If yes, provide a demonstration that the additional distance is needed for reason of multiple seam mining, size or amount of equipment to be used, topography or method of mining.

Wells, Exploration Holes and Bore Holes [§87.93]

Provide a description of the manner in which each well, exploration hole or bore hole is cased, sealed or otherwise managed.

Wells, exploration holes or boreholes will be backfilled and sealed with drill cuttings. The majority of exploration drill holes will be mined out during the surface operation.

Noise Control Plan

List all noise sources which will be located within the permit area of the proposed mine operation.

Noise sources within the permit area will include earth-moving equipment, drills, blasting shots, and other activities associated with surface mining.

Indicate the hours of operation for the equipment:

- Continuous 24 hours a day. Which equipment?
 Night time hours. Which equipment?
 Weekends. Which equipment? **All**
 Holidays. Which equipment?

The proposed mining operation will typically operate on a 2-shift basis (morning and afternoon), six days a week, however occasions may arise when mining is conducted during the hours of operation listed above.

Are any of the following located within the area adjacent to the proposed mine operation? Check all that apply.

- Residential Areas
 Schools
 Hospitals
 Churches

Describe the pre-mining environmental sound levels within the adjacent area. Include the sound levels during night time hours, weekends and holidays.

The pre-mining sound levels within the adjacent area include light (50dBA) traffic and heavy (85dBA) traffic traveling on State Route 1033 (Centennial Drive). A train track is also located within the adjacent area which would produce a maximum level of 85dBA. These sounds would typically be heard during the week and on Saturdays. During Sundays and on holidays the sound level would normally be limited to light traffic.

Has a noise study been conducted to characterize the pre-mining noise levels of the surrounding area and estimate the noise levels from the proposed mine operation? Yes No
 If yes, submit that study.

Describe the measures that will be taken to prevent noise from becoming a public nuisance.

- **All equipment will be provided with mufflers as per OSHA and manufacturer's standards for noise suppression.**
- **Normal hours of work will typically be limited to daylight and afternoon working shifts.**
- **Trees and adjacent foliage will provide a natural barrier to sound.**