



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY

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To: All persons interested in Rules and Regulations constructed by the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety

From: Joel L. Watts, Administrator – BCMH&S

Subject: Notification by Utility Companies

Date: 12 May 2008

Effective Date: 16 June 2008

Action: Finalized Regulation – Title 36, Series 27, Section 14

Authority: §22-6-4

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

§36-27-14

This regulation has been developed by the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety to prevent a reoccurrence of Fatal 16-2006, where the victim, a dozer operator, was fatally injured when the dozer that he was operating come in contact with a gas line. Further, this Rule is also intended to prevent serious accidents on surface operations where oil and gas operator employees come in close proximity to mining operations, i.e., blasting, timbering, haulage functions and such dangerous encounters occur due to coal operations beings unaware of the presence of oil and gas operator employees on bonded property.

This regulation recognizes that coal and utility companies must share the same properties during the course of coal production and maintenance of utility projects. It calls for a reasonable notice to be given by oil, gas, and utility companies to the owner of record or the occupant of the coal property if on-site travel is expected. This direct communication would additionally serve to ensure that adequate safeguards are implemented to prevent serious accident producing situations from occurring.

Further, this regulation requires that oil, gas and utility companies mark gathering lines and that the coal companies shall conduct gas line awareness training with their employees and contractors.