



State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III, Governor

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TO: Inspectors-at-Large
FROM: Terry L. Farley, Administrator
DATE: August 28, 2007
RE: Interpretation and Enforcement Title 56 Series 3 Section 32.6 (d)

Questions have arisen regarding the interpretation and enforcement application of Title 56, Series 3, and Section 32.6 (d). This memorandum is intended to clarify those questions. Section 32.6 (d) reads as follows:

All holes or series of holes containing detonators shall be fired immediately upon completion of loading. However, after connecting the loaded holes, if for any reason the holes cannot be fired immediately, all work shall cease within a radius of three hundred (300) feet of the blasting area and work shall not commence again until the holes have been fired.

It is common knowledge that the length of time necessary to load a "shot" at a surface mine will vary from several hours to several days depending on the size of the shot and the number of holes to be loaded. It is also common knowledge that loading is not usually done after dark, and the firing of holes is of course prohibited after dark. Loading of holes also does not continue on holidays or days when the mine is not scheduled to work. Aside from these situations and the onset of rain, thunderstorms and or lightning, it shall be the enforcement policy of this agency that the process of loading holes in preparation for blasting should continue until the process is complete once it begins. Interrupting the loading process once it has been started for reasons of convenience may result in enforcement actions by the OMHST.

Title 56, Series 3, Section 32.6 (d) requires that "all holes or series of holes containing detonators shall be fired immediately upon completion of loading". Once the loading process is complete it is also necessary to wire/connect the holes in preparation for firing. The wiring/connecting process, again, depending on the size of the shot and number of holes can usually be completed within a few hours. This process should be managed so that wiring/connecting the holes can be done without interruption to allow the holes to be fired immediately upon completion of the process. Obviously, the process should not be started near the onset of darkness or potentially disruptive weather conditions. Delaying or interrupting the process for reasons of convenience may result in enforcement actions by the OMHST.

As stipulated by Title 56, Series 3, Section 32.6 (d), "if for any reason the holes cannot be fired immediately, all work shall cease within a radius of three hundred (300) feet of the blasting area and work shall not commence again until the holes have been fired".

TLF:ks