



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BUREAU OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF MINERS' HEALTH, SAFETY AND TRAINING

1115 WASHINGTON STREET, EAST - CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25311-0331 - TELEPHONE: (304) 526-4422 - FAX: (304) 526-4322

Gaston Caperton
Governor

James B. Lawrence
Commissioner

Stephen F. Webber
Director

March 6, 1995

Clyde Stepp, Safety Director
Marfork Coal Company
Post Office Box 457
Whitesville, West Virginia 25209

Dear Mr. Stepp:

By letter dated February 24, 1995, and fax mail dated March 3, 1995, Marfork Coal Company has asked the Director of the WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training (MHS&T) to approve procedures and "other device" to uncouple cars pursuant to Title 38, Series 29, Section 4.1 (38-29-4).

After careful review of the attached design of an uncoupler bar, and the procedures for its use, I find the device and its use will provide an equal level of safety as car couplers that automatically uncouple. Your request to use the uncoupler bar and the use of the attached procedures are approved effective March 6, 1995.

Failure to properly maintain the uncoupler bar, or to follow the attached approved procedures may result in review of this approval by the Director, and possibly its withdrawal.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Webber
Director

SFW:ks
Attachment



Coal Company, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 • Whitesville, West Virginia 25209
Bus. (304) 854-1852 • Fax (304) 854-1888

February 24, 1995

Mr. Stephen Webber
Director
WV Office of Miner's Health, Safety, and Training
1615 Washington Street East
Charleston, WV 25311-2126



Dear Mr. Webber:

This letter is in response to a conversation that I had with Steve Snyder concerning the use of uncoupler bars at Marfork Coal Company.

These bars are identical to the uncoupler bar that has been used at Elk Run Coal Company since April 5, 1994. Mr. Snyder had Mike Rutledge come down to Outpost East and video our supply people using this device. Attached is a copy of the operating guidelines for use of the uncoupler bar. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Clyde Stapp
Safety Director
Marfork Coal Company

3-3-95

OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR USE OF UNCOUPLER BAR

1. NEVER STAND OR HAVE ANY BODY PARTS BETWEEN CARS OR AROUND COUPLERS.
2. ALWAYS USE THE PROVIDED COUPLER BAR TO ALIGN DRAW HEADS WHEN HOOKING UP.
3. THE BARS ARE TO BE KEPT ON THE MOTORS, EXCEPT WHEN IN USE.
4. ALWAYS STAND TO THE SIDE OF THE CAR WITH YOUR BODY IN A CLEAR POSITION.
5. NEVER TRY TO UNCOUPLE CARS WHILE THEY ARE IN MOTION.
6. DO NOT USE DAMAGED DRAW HEADS, SUPPLY CARS, OR COUPLER BARS.
7. TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL PERSONS INVOLVED IN USE OF THE UNCOUPLING DEVICE.

