

Outline for the Development of a Plan to Control the Effects of Blasting

The Revised Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining (2009) states in 4VAC25-40-893:

“Each operator shall maintain a plan to control the effects of blasting on areas adjacent to the operation. This plan will be documented and made available for review by the Division of Mineral Mining upon request”

The following is a list of suggested issues and opportunities an operator may chose to address in the drafting of this Operational Plan:

- Do you use a seismograph to monitor your shots?
 - How many do you use at this site?
 - Are they permanent or portable units?
- Do you use a third party vibration consulting company to support you?
 - Do they ensure the seismographs are calibrated and up to date?
 - Do they review the results of your shots?
 - Do you ask them for advice to improve your results?
- Do you ever ask for advice to improve your results from your explosive supplier?
- Do any results less than the DMME limits for ground vibration or air-overpressure compel you to take action? What action do you take?
- How do you respond to a neighbor’s complaint?
 - Do you monitor the concerned neighbor’s residence with a seismograph to determine what is taking place?
- Do you use a video camera to record your shots?
- Do you initiate or host any conversations with your neighbors at this location?
- How do you want to be seen by your neighbors?
- What sort of contact do you have with neighbors regarding your operations, including blasts?
 - Do you initiate or host any regular conversations with your neighbors at this location?
 - What specific interaction do you have with your neighbors regarding blasting?
 - Do you educate your neighbors and community on the blasting process and the effects of blasting?
 - What actions do you take that build relationships and trust?
 - What actions would lead people to believe you are sincere, caring and understanding of issues they may be facing?
- How do you attempt to mitigate the impact of blasting on close neighbors?
 - Have you changed any blasting parameters in an attempt to mitigate the impact of blasting on close neighbors?
 - Have you changed the amount of stemming you use, your burden or spacing, delay timing, used digital detonators, etc.?
- Do you use a laser profiler to determine burden for any of your shots?

- Does your Blasting Team and the *Blaster-in-Charge* know the current opinions and concerns of your neighbors? How does this information get conveyed to your Blasting Team?
- Do you provide any training to your Team regarding the effects of blasting?
- Do the effects of blasting influence your mine plan?
- How do you define a “good shot”?
- What steps do you take to optimize your use of explosives?
- Describe how you manage your blasting program.

BWS

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