

Section 17.24.624

SURFACE BLASTING REQUIREMENTS

(2)(a) Blasting Period

Blasting will be conducted only during daytime hours between sunrise and sunset. Based on public requests or other considerations, and given the proximity to residential areas, it is understood that the MDEQ may specify more restrictive time periods.

(2)(b) Blasting Outside the Specified Periods

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(f).

(3) Unscheduled Blasting

SCM will notify the MDEQ within three days of an unscheduled blast outside the times announced within the blasting schedule.

(4) Warning/All Clear Signals

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(c).

(5) Safety Requirements

Access to the blasting area will be regulated to protect the public and livestock from the effects of blasting. Unauthorized entry to the blasting area will be forbidden until SCM's authorized representative has determined that no hazards exist and that travel through the area can safely resume. Areas in which charged holes exist shall be guarded, barricaded and posted, or flagged against unauthorized entry.

(6) Controlling Airblast

Airblast will be controlled so that it will not exceed the values as specified in Section 17.24.624(6)(a) at any dwelling, or public, commercial, community or institutional building, unless the structure is owned by Spring Creek Coal LLC and is not leased to any other person. Spring Creek will conduct periodic monitoring to ensure compliance with airblast standards.

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Monitoring will be conducted in close proximity to the private structure closest to SCM's blasting operations. The following procedures will be followed before monitoring:

Set up monitor and run calibration test.

If gain settings are within the machine's limits, then trigger the seismograph to check conductivity between the geophone, air pressure microphone and the monitor.

Set the trigger levels as low as possible for the given wind conditions.

Results of such monitoring will be stored at SCM and available for review upon request.

(7) Approved Blasting Zone Distances

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(g).

(8) Blast Design to Protect Facilities

If so ordered by the MDEQ, a blast design plan will be submitted to protect the above facilities. The plan will contain the information contained in Section 17.24.310 and will be signed by a certified blaster.

(9) Flyrock Limits

Flyrock will not be cast from the blasting vicinity more than half the distance to the nearest dwelling or other occupied structure, and in no case beyond the property line owned or leased by SCM.

(10) Blasting Safety

Blasting activities will be carefully planned and supervised to prevent injury to persons, damage to public or private property outside the permit area, adverse effects on any underground mine, and change in the course, channel, or availability of ground or surface waters outside the permit area.

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(11) Allowable Peak Particle Velocity

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(d).

(12) Exclusion of Peak Particle Velocity

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(g).

(13) Determining the Maximum Weight of Explosives Detonated Within any Eight Millisecond Period

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(g).

(14) Equation for Determining the Maximum Weight of Explosives Detonated Within any Eight Millisecond Period

Reference the discussion in Section 17.24.310(1)(d).