

Compliance Bulletin

Obtaining Approval of Explosive Products and Detonation Devices for Use on Surface Coal Mines



west virginia department of environmental protection

In regard to obtaining approval of explosive products and detonation devices for use on surface coal mines and quarries, Chapter 22, Article 4, Section 13 of the state code, and Title 199, Series 1, Section 3.2 of the state rules, require a permittee to obtain approval of the type of explosives and detonation equipment to be used on the permit.

- Any use of non-standard (see below) explosives products or detonation equipment, not previously approved through the Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) or Office of Explosives and Blasting (OEB), must be approved prior to being used on the permit.
- The standard blast plan used by the majority of permittee's only lists standard explosive products like ANFO, emulsion, and various types of boosters. It also lists standard detonation equipment such as shock tube, detonation cord, electric, non-el and electronic systems. These are generally considered standard blasting products because they have been widely used by blasters, are well vetted, and their use is familiar to DMR/OEB.
- Should a "non-standard" explosive or detonation equipment (like a demilitarized explosive product or experimental detonation system) be proposed for use it must be approved by DMR/OEB prior to use on any coal mine or quarry.

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