

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT (OSM)



Blasting Contact: Kenneth Eltschlager, Mining Engineer
Appalachian Region
3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 937-2169 or keltschlager@osmre.gov

PUBLIC LAW 95-87
SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1977
BLASTING AUTHORITY

SECTION 515(b) General performance standards shall be applicable to all surface coal mining and reclamation operations and shall require the operation as a minimum to --

(15) insure that explosives are used only in accordance with existing State and Federal law and the regulations promulgated by the regulatory authority, which shall include provisions to -

(A) provide adequate advance **written notice** to local governments and residents who might be affected by the use of such explosives by publication of the planned blasting schedule in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality and by mailing a copy of the proposed blasting schedule to every resident living within one-half mile of the proposed blasting site and by providing daily notice to resident /occupiers in such areas prior to any blasting;

(B) maintain for a period of at least three years and make available for public inspection upon request **a log** detailing the location of the blasts, the pattern and depth of the drill holes, the amount of explosives used per hole, and the order and length of delay in the blasts;

(C) limit the type of explosives and detonating equipment, the size, the timing and frequency of blasts based upon the physical conditions of the site so as **to prevent (i) injury to persons, (ii) damage to public and private property outside the permit area, (iii) adverse impacts on any underground mine, and (iv) change in the course, channel, or availability of ground or surface water outside the permit area;**

(D) require that all blasting operations be conducted by trained and competent persons as **certified by the regulatory authority;**

(E) provide that upon the request of a resident or owner of a man-made dwelling or structure within one-half mile of any portion of the permitted area the applicant or permittee shall conduct a **pre-blasting survey** of such structures and submit the survey to the regulatory authority and a copy to the resident or owner making the request. The area of the survey shall be decided by the regulatory authority and shall include such provisions as the

Secretary shall promulgate.

SMCRA

CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING OF BLASTERS

SEC. 719. In accordance with this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (or the approved State regulatory authority as provided for in section 503 of this Act) shall promulgate regulations requiring the training, examination, and certification of persons engaging in or directly responsible for blasting or use of explosives in surface coal mining operations.