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.  

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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.