

Plan to Mine Within 200 Feet of a Gas Well and/or Pipeline Surface Mine

Company Name

Mine Name or Number

Date

Mine Index Number

1. Operator and Well Information:

Operator Name

See attachment for multiple wells

Well Number

Address Line 1

Northing

Address Line 2

Easting

City, State, Zip

Elevation

2. Surface mine workings of the above mine will be extended to within 200 feet of the referenced gas well or pipeline, but at no time will mining activities occur any closer than _____ feet to such well or no closer than _____ feet to a pipeline.
3. Notice of Intent has been sent by certified mail to the operator of the gas well and/or pipeline as required in the Regulations Governing Vertical Ventilation Holes and Mining Near Gas and Oil Wells and §45.1-161.121.C and 45.1-161.292.B of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia.
4. The Director of the Division of Gas and Oil has been notified at Drawer 159, Lebanon, Virginia 24266.
5. Return receipts validating notification are attached or will be forwarded when available.
6. The operator of the gas well or pipeline has the right to object to the proposed mining. Such objections must be filed with the Chief within 10 days of the receipt of this notice.

7. An accurate map or plat showing the information required by 4 VAC 25-101-160.B of the Regulations Governing Vertical Ventilation Holes and Mining Near Gas Wells is attached. Such map clearly delineates areas to be mined and areas to be left undisturbed.
8. Only mining projections shown on the attached map or plat are planned for mining. All projections may not necessarily be mined, but any additional mining will require the plan to be re-submitted to all parties.
9. The certified map has been reviewed by mine management who concurs with the planned mine development and is familiar with the location of the gas well or pipeline that is affected by the proposed mining.
10. A mine map showing the proposed mining areas and known gas wells and pipelines will be posted at all times for review at the designated mine office.
11. No smoking or open flames will be permitted near gas wells or pipelines at any time.
12. Properly maintained and calibrated gas detection equipment will be available where ground disturbing activities around gas wells or pipelines are planned.
13. Gas wells will be marked with flagging or florescent painted signs placed at a height of at least six (6) feet above ground level. If equipment is operated at night or at other times of poor visibility, strobe lights or other effective means will be used in addition to flagging. If conditions allow, a four (4) foot high earthen berm will be provided between the equipment work area and the gas well.
14. When excavations are planned to extend below the surface level of the gas well, the area within 200 feet of the gas well will be sloped or benched such that the horizontal distance to the well will be at least equal to the depth of excavation.
15. Pipelines will be marked at intervals not to exceed 75 feet with flagging or florescent painted signs placed at a height of at least six (6) feet above ground level or more often whenever a change in direction occurs. If equipment is operated at night or at other times of poor visibility, strobe lights or other effective means will be used in addition to flagging. If conditions allow, a minimum of four (4) foot high earthen berm will be provided between the equipment work area and the pipeline.
16. Equipment operators will dismount and familiarize themselves with the location of gas wells and pipelines prior to performing ground disturbing activities in the area. If the surface foreman determines during the pre-shift examination that equipment is to be operated within close proximity of a gas well or pipeline, the foreman will communicate such information to the equipment operators.
17. Before any blasting, gas wells and pipelines will be adequately protected from damage induced by “fly rock” or other material. Only those individuals engaged in installing or removing protective measures will be in the vicinity of a gas well or pipeline while those measures are being installed or removed. A certified surface foreman will supervise the installation and removal of protective measures.
18. Pipelines may be purged and disconnected, covered with protective material, or provided with other no less effective means to protect them from the effects of blasting.

19. Before starting any blasting, wellheads and associated piping will be protected with a substantial cover that is lined with non-sparking material. The cover will have ample clearance when being placed on or removed from over the wellhead. The cover will be provided with vents to prevent accumulation of an explosive or flammable mixture of gasses. The cover will be provided with at least four (4) eyelets or other substantial means to facilitate placing and removing. Equipment used to place or remove the covering over the wellhead will be capable of lifting the cover and equipped with hooks or other substantial means to prevent the load from shifting during installation or removal. A substantial berm of spoil material will be placed around the cover to at least the height of the cover. In the event it becomes necessary to leave the wellhead covered for an extended period of time, a sign identifying the location of the wellhead will be placed in proximity to the wellhead location.
20. If a pipeline crossing is necessary, a minimum of three (3) feet of compacted dirt will be placed on the line as a cushioning material prior to dumping any overburden spoil on or around the line. Cushioning material will be free of rocks or other debris that could damage or puncture the line. Prior to covering an active transmission line, the pipeline owners and/or operators will be notified prior to any work being performed.
21. No work area will be created over a buried, active pipeline. No coal stockpile or storage of other material will be allowed over a buried, active pipeline.
22. Where practical, stationary equipment will not be placed over a buried, active pipeline.
23. Affected mine employees will be trained in the content of this plan and the location of the gas well and/or pipeline in relation to mine development.
24. Affected mine employees will be trained in the potential hazards associated with mining near gas wells and pipelines and in proper emergency response procedures should a gas well or pipeline be accidentally damaged or ruptured while operating equipment.
25. A record of training will be made and kept at the mine for a period of no less than one (1) year. The record will include the name of the person conducting the training and the names of individuals receiving the training.
26. The person with overall responsibility for health and safety at the mine, as identified in the mine license application, is responsible and accountable for the implementation of this plan to mine within 200 feet of a gas well and ensure that all applicable training is conducted.

Company Official

Title