

Appendix B—Model Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) Program

Note: The following is an example of a Model PAPR Protection Program. Not all items contained in this example would be required for all mines. Additional items not included in this example might be required depending on the conditions at your mine.

1.0 Purpose

Wellington Mining Company and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) have determined that, after installing all feasible engineering and environmental controls on the 002–0 MMU longwall mining section, miners working downwind of the shearer continue to be exposed to respirable coal mine dust concentrations in excess of the allowable standard during routine mining operations. As a result, Wellington Mining Company has been granted permission by MSHA to use powered air-purifying respirators to protect affected miners from overexposure to this respiratory hazard until such time as other feasible engineering controls become available.

During mining of development entries, Wellington Mining Company, for brief periods of time, intermittently encounters high quartz concentrations while mining through rock partings. The approved ventilation plan parameters likely will not prevent overexposure to some miners during these brief occurrences. Accordingly, MSHA has approved a revision to the ventilation plan to allow for the use of PAPRs, for a period not to exceed 30 days, when these unusual operating conditions occur.

The purpose of this PAPR Protection Program is to specify who is required to wear PAPRs and the conditions under which the respirators must be used. The miners, occupations, work location or tasks requiring PAPR use at Wellington Mining Company are listed in Section 4.0.

2.0 Scope and Application

This PAPR Protection Program is applicable to all miners who are required by the provisions of the approved ventilation plan to wear PAPRs. This includes supply and maintenance personnel, electrical crews or supervisors working in those areas, occupations or tasks designated in Wellington's PAPR Protection Program.

Miners participating in the PAPR Protection Program do so at no cost to them. The expense associated with training, providing and maintaining PAPRs will be borne by Wellington Mining Company.

3.0 Responsibilities

Program Administrator

The Program Administrator is the management official designated by Wellington Mining Company who is responsible for administering the PAPR Program. The duties of the Program Administrator include:

- Selection of the PAPR.
- Monitoring respirator use to ensure that PAPRs are used in accordance with this program.
- Arranging for and conducting training.
- Ensuring proper storage and maintenance of PAPRs.
- Evaluating the program.
- Updating the written programs as needed.

The Program Administrator for Wellington Mining Company is John Doe.

Mine Supervisors

Mine supervisors are responsible for ensuring that the PAPR Protection Program is implemented in their area(s) of responsibility. In addition to being knowledgeable about the program requirements for their own protection, mine supervisors must also ensure that the program is understood and followed by the miners under their supervision. Duties of the mine supervisor include:

- Ensuring that miners under their supervision have received appropriate training.
- Ensuring the availability of PAPRs and accessories.
- Being aware of miners, areas, occupations or tasks requiring the use of PAPRs.
- Enforcing the proper use of PAPRs when necessary.
- Ensuring that PAPRs are properly cleaned, maintained, and stored according to the PAPR Protection Program.
- Ensuring that PAPRs fit properly and do not cause discomfort.
- Coordinating with the Program Administrator on how to address respirable coal mine dust hazards or other concerns regarding the program.

Miners

Each miner has the responsibility to wear the PAPR when and where required and in the manner in which he or she was trained. Miners must also:

- Care for their PAPRs as instructed.
- Inform their mine supervisor if the PAPR is no longer operating properly.
- Inform their mine supervisor or the Program Administrator of any concerns they have regarding the program.

4.0 Program Elements

Selection Procedures

The Program Administrator will select the PAPRs to be used on site in accordance with all MSHA requirements. The Program Administrator will provide all miners who wear PAPRs with a copy of the manufacturer's instructions including the use, care, maintenance and storage of the PAPR.

- PAPRs utilized will be 3M model AS–600LBC, certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under 42 CFR part 84 and approved by MSHA under 30 CFR part 18 and will be used in accordance with the terms of certification and approval. The main PAPR filter will be the AS–140 HE or equivalent as approved by NIOSH.

PAPR Protection Factor

The minimum air velocity specified in the approved ventilation plan at the headgate of the MMU 002–0 longwall is 550 fpm. Accordingly, the assigned protection factor for the use of PAPRs is 2.9.

When PAPRs are required to be used while mining through rock partings on development entries, the air velocity is less than 400 fpm which results in an assigned protection factor of 4.0.

PAPR Use

PAPR protection is required as follows:

- For all miners who work or travel downwind of the shearer operator when material is being produced on the 002–0 MMU longwall section.
- For all miners who work or travel on the active production face or work or travel downwind of that face when it has been determined by mine management that unique operating conditions caused by mining through rock partings has or will occur.

General Use Procedures

- PAPRs assigned for the exclusive use of a miner will be identified by labeling the outside with the miner's full name.
- Miners will use PAPRs under conditions specified by the program, and in accordance with the training they have received on the use of the device. The PAPR will not be used in a manner for which it is not certified by NIOSH or approved by MSHA.
- All miners should examine the PAPR prior to each shift of use for a new main filter, integrity of the visor, and proper functioning of the battery and motor assembly.