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MEMORANDUM

To: MINERAL MINING OPERATORS
From: William O. Roller, Mineral Mining Division Director
Re: DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING NOTES

DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING INTRODUCES NEW PERSONNEL:

Many of you have had the opportunity to meet some ^{of} DMM's new employees. Gary E. Potter, is DMM's new Environmental Engineer Consultant. Gary will review permit applications to ensure that applicable regulations are addressed and all required information is included in the application. He is also available to operators to discuss any concerns or problems relating to sediment structure design, reclamation, or other environmental issues.

Randy DeVaul, Mine Training and Research Supervisor, coordinates the certification and safety training programs and is available to the operators to discuss and schedule training needs both on-and off-site. Randy maintains the video library and provides videos to the operators on a loan basis for on-site review.

Dave Benner is the DMM's Eastern Mine Inspector Supervisor. He will be responsible for overseeing the mine inspectors in the eastern half of the Commonwealth and will respond to on-site serious and fatal accidents. Dave will reside in the Richmond area.

Paul Grizzle is the new Mine Inspector for the Essex County area. Paul will conduct training for operators in addition to his inspection responsibilities in safety and reclamation.

David Cress is the Mine Inspector for the Winchester area. David will also conduct training for operators in addition to his inspection responsibilities in safety and reclamation.

We are glad to have these people on board as we continue to provide the mineral mining industry with the best assistance possible in environmental, health and safety, and consistent interpretation of the laws and regulations.

ACCIDENT ABSTRACTS:

For the fourth quarter of 1989, there were no fatalities. There were, however, two serious accidents.

The first accident occurred as a railroad brakeman was attaching a connecting air line between a locomotive and an empty rail car. During this process, he was struck by another slow-moving locomotive on the adjacent track. The accident occurred because the brakeman failed to remain clear of the moving railroad equipment. The victim sustained multiple contusions to his head and body.

The second accident occurred while an employee attempted to secure drill rods on the rod storage rack with a come-a-long. The come-a-long slipped, causing the employee to lose his balance. He fell from the platform where he was working and over the 55-foot quarry highwall. There was no railing safeguard on the platform from which he was working and the safety line that was provided was not being worn. The employee sustained a fractured pelvis.

SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATIONS:

All certified foreman and blasters should review the revised regulations that have been distributed by the Division of Mineral Mining. The new regulations implement the requirements of Title 45.1 Mining Laws by combining the revised 1977 Rules and Regulations, Governing the Mining of Metal and Non-Metallic Minerals and the 1985 Rules and Regulations Governing Blasting in Surface Mining Operations.

Changes include the deletion of outdated provisions and the rewording of some regulations in order to clarify their intent. All regulations relating only to "underground mines" were moved to part 15. Parts 1-14 are applicable to both surface and underground mines unless otherwise stated. These changes will help facilitate industry compliance and aid personnel who are preparing for certification exams by combining all safety and health regulations into one comprehensive manual.

ALL CERTIFIED BLASTERS - PLEASE NOTE!:

As of January 1, 1990, a new law went into effect under the Virginia Fire Prevention Code, involving all blasters that function in a non-mining environment. Code Section F-2600.2.3 Certification of Blaster, states: "It shall be a violation of this code for any person to load or fire explosive materials unless the person, or his on-site supervisor, is a certified blaster..." To be a certified blaster, the applicant shall successfully complete the blaster certification program of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). An applicant for this blaster's certification shall meet the following criteria:

- a. be at least 21 years of age;
- b. be able to understand and give written and oral instructions in the English language;
- c. have worked at least one year under the direct supervision of a blaster certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia or under the supervision of a blaster certified by another authority recognized by the Department of Housing and Community Development as being equivalent;
- d. have a working knowledge of federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to explosive materials.

A temporary certificate may be issued to any person who meets the applicant criteria listed above if the person was employed as a blaster prior to filing the application for the temporary certificate.

For clarification, this means that a person currently blasting in a industry other than mining will be required to hold certification from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). If blasting is limited to mines only, certification is required through the Division of Mineral Mining. Should one be blasting in both types of industry, dual certification is required.

The temporary certificate application being distributed by DHCD is blue in color and is to be returned to the address on the application ONLY if a person will be blasting for an industry other than mining.

Should you have any questions, please give us a call at 804-239-0602.

SIGNATURE BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL REQUIRED ON PERMIT APPLICATIONS:

All DMM permit applications and amendments must be signed by the owner or a principal corporate officer. The person signing these forms must be one of those listed in the first part of question number 6 on the Application/Operation Plan (Form DMM-101).

Signature by persons other than the owner or principal corporate officer will require proof that the person signing the form has legal authority to act on behalf of the company. Such proof may be submitted in the form of power-of-attorney or a written statement which grants specific authority and is signed by the owner or principal corporate officer and notarized. *

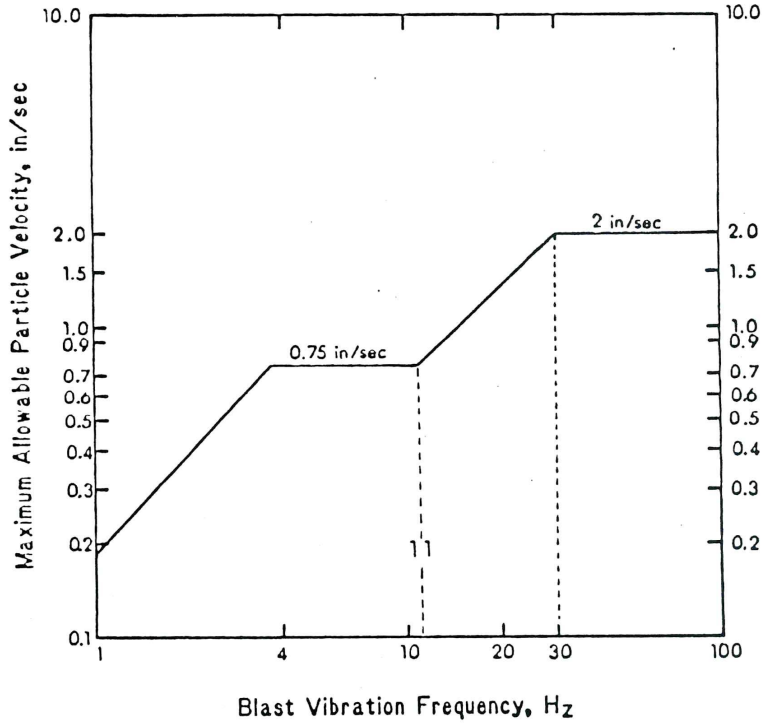
The company official in charge of the mining operation or the certified mine foreman on site may continue to sign the notices of non-compliance and receive copies of inspection reports.

ALTERNATIVE BLASTING CRITERIA:

Sections 6.11 and 6.12 of the Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining, 1989, establish specific limits for ground vibration and air blast which occur as a result of blasting. Sections 6.11 and 6.12 also make provisions for alternate limitations. Operators may request the alternate limits by writing the Division of Mineral Mining. Approval must be granted by the Division in writing before alternate limitations will be allowed. *

The enclosed tables represent alternate blasting level criteria which may be approved by the Division.

Enclosure - Tables



(From Bureau of Mines R 8507)

AIRBLAST LIMITS

Lower Frequency Limit of Measuring system, in Hz.	Max. Level in dB (± 3 dB)
1 Hz or lower--flat response<1>.....	134 peak
2 Hz or lower--flat response..(1).....	133 peak
6 Hz or lower--flat response.....	129 peak
C-weighted --slow response<1>.....	105 peak dBC

<1> Only when approved by the regulatory authority.