

Quality-Controlled Blasting At Hobet Mining Inc.

Wm. Scott Stewart, Mine Manager
Hobet 07 Mine
Hobet Mining Inc.
Jim Simpson, Senior Tech Rep
West Virginia Explosives Inc
and
John Waller, Technical Rep.
Atlas Powder Company

ABSTRACT

The authors review the evolution of drilling and blasting procedures at this West Virginia surface coal mine where management seeks continually to improve and update the drilling and blasting programs. Today's operations require efficient programs which include quality control to maximize production and minimize the public's sensitivity to the blasting events.

These programs included more accurate drilling, close measurement of hole depth and burden and spacing, checking buildup of the explosives column to prevent overloading, consistent adequate stemming, top and bottom priming with different delays, variations in row to row and hole to hole delay timing, and, for added noise control, the elimination of detonating cord from the holes. The latter was made possible by the introduction in 1991 of a new high-strength shock tube material. Concurrently, the drill pattern was expanded from its former 25x25 dimensions to 28x32 using high energy, high density bulk emulsion/ANFO explosives.