

### 17.24.311 AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN

(1) This rule applies to strip mines; however, the following information is provided in support of the Operator's intent to protect air quality during the underground mining operations.

(a) An air quality monitoring program was initiated at the proposed mine site in February, 1989. The program consists of monitoring ambient air temperature, wind speed and direction, and precipitation. This program was implemented to provide sufficient data to describe the seasonal variation of meteorological conditions and to evaluate the effectiveness of the fugitive dust control practices proposed in the following sections. A complete description of this program with all data collected through December 1989 is contained in Section 17.24.304(8).

The Operator currently maintains an Air Quality permit with the Montana Department of Environmental, Quality Air Quality Bureau. The valid Air Quality Permit (No. 3179-05) is for the current coal preparation plant and coal handling facilities. The Operator is currently operating two Air Quality monitoring stations as shown on Map 308-2, General Surface Facilities, Operations Plan.

(b) As required by Rule 17.24.761, Meridians' fugitive dust control plan is as follows:

#### Coal Handling

1. If a coal dryer is employed, particulate emissions from the coal dryer will be controlled via a bag-house.
2. All permanent conveyors outside the mine portal will be designed to prevent particulate dispersion by wind. These conveyors will be partially enclosed. Water sprays will be mounted and used as necessary to minimize dust generation from the conveyors at transfer points.
3. Coal stockpile feed conveyors will be equipped with a variable length tube stacker to minimize the fall distance to the pile, to control dust and spillage.
4. Open coal stockpiles will be sprayed with water to control dust emissions as necessary.
5. Any coal stockpile fires will be extinguished promptly, as provided for in the appropriate portion of the operations plan, Section 17.24.308(1)(d).
6. Coal crushing equipment will be equipped with water sprays that will be used as needed to control particulate emissions.

#### Road Dust Control

1. Water or other approved dust suppressants will be applied to any active roadway and parking area to control dust emission as necessary.
2. Coal, rock, soil and other dust-generating material will be promptly removed from all roads.
3. Speed will be controlled on all roads within the mine property and limited to 25 miles per hour.
4. Travel will be restricted to established roads except where necessary for maintenance, safety and exploration work.
5. Yard areas and parking lots will be graveled to minimize dust emissions.

#### Boilers

Propane boilers will supply space heating and hot water for the office/changehouse, shop/warehouse and preparation plant buildings. The thermal output and amount of coal burned in these boilers will have a negligible impact on air quality.

### Wind Erosion Control

1. Distributed areas susceptible to potential fugitive dust emissions will be revegetated, mulched or otherwise stabilized.
2. Long term storage stockpiles (topsoil and subsoil) will be re-vegetated as soon as possible after they are established.

### Mining Practices

1. Worked out sections of the mine will be closed off and sealed consistent with good mining practices.