

Built-In-Place Refuge Alternatives – (BIP-RA) October 19, 2016



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Safety Moment



Westmoreland at a Glance: It all Starts With Industry Leading Safety

Total Reportable Incident Rate US Operations



- Uncompromised safety is a core value
- Comprehensive safety programs, systems and training
- Total vigilance in adhering to and exceeding all standards









Westmoreland at a Glance: Diversified North American Coal Leader

Successfully mining coal since 1854

- Operations include:
 - 18 surface mine operations in U.S. and Canada
 - A long-wall mine in New Mexico
 - An underground mine in Ohio
 - Char and activated carbon production facilities
 - Two-unit ROVA coal-fired power plant
- Owns general partner and majority interest in WMLP
- Award-winning safety and environmental performance







Looking back: BIP RA History at San Juan Mine

- First installation, March 2006
- Incorporated into the MSHA Approved Emergency Response Plan, April 2007
- Original structure design loosely based on a previous 20 psi alternative seal design.
- Structure was certified as exceeding the 15 psi strength requirements in 2009.
- Structure and Door were certified as exceeding the 15 psi strength requirements in 2010.
- Part 7 Approval was acquired in 2014.
- Continue to install at a maximum of 6000 foot intervals.





"Therefore, the concept design meets the 15-psi design loading requirements for the assumed load, minimum material properties, and construction methods considered in this report."

(Quoted from 2010 Analysis Report)



Typical BIP-RA Layout





Maintenance of Atmosphere

- Main mine fan provides continuous airflow into the BIP-RA during normal operations.
 - Air flows down the borehole and out of the BIP-RA into the mine.
- Large vent pipe is open during normal operations, closed during actual use.
- Equipped with a check valve to prevent air reversing through the pipe.
- Dual sampling ports for sampling the mine atmosphere outside the RA.
- A second vent pipe is equipped with a pressure relief valve.
- Portable blower fans are added to each borehole during emergency use.

Check Valve to prevent airflow from the mine into the BIP-RA.







Interior View of An Early Version

Borehole location for this BIP-RA





Interior Photo of Current Installation



- Supply containers with tamper-evident seals.
- Shelving for supply storage and inspection.



Typical Surface Borehole Site During Normal Operations







Surface Components Typical Layout During Emergency Use





Borehole Support Trailers



- Borehole Support Trailers
- Stored at a central & secure location
- Equipment examined and tested on a regular basis.
- Must maintain capability of deploying this equipment in less than 1-hr.

Trailer Materials	Quantity		
	Gateroad	East Mains	
Generator	1/borehole	1/borehole	
Carbon Monoxide Detector set to alarm at 10 PPM	1/borehole	1/borehole	
Fans	1/borehole	1/borehole	
Ventilation hose/tubing	1/borehole	1/borehole	
Lighting	1/borehole	1/borehole	



Borehole Support Equipment





Ventilation Survey Data – Part 7 Application

BIP RA Location	Wall to Wall Length (ft)	Floor to Roof Height (ft)	Rib to Rib Width (ft)	Ambient Noise Level (db)	Ambient Noise Level with Fan (db)	Ambient Inside Temperature (F)	Ambient Surface Temperature (F)	CFM W/O Aux Fan (Adjusted)	CFM W/ Aux Fan (Adjusted)
EM XC 35	44.5	10	18.75	52.2	62	64	99	78	270
EM XC 72	31.5	10	18.05	55	61	64	79.7	191	468
EM XC 107	53	10	19	48	54	71	99	78	397
WSM XC 1	68.1	8	18	61	63	65	86.6	174	374
GR-400 XC 24	35.5	11.3	21	40.2	47.8	66	96.3	110	321
GR-401 XC 22	66.5	9.5	18.3	48	50	67	95.4	110	302
GR-401 XC 48	78.5	9.4	22.3	38.2	48.1	72	93.1	302	480
GR-402 XC 16	66.5	10	18	45	50.3	66	93.2	220	480
GR-402 XC 42	61.8	9.5	19.8	34	58	66	89.5	302	499

Uses During Normal Operations

- Exhausting ventilation fan maintains fresh air flow continuously into the BIP-RA.
- Crews sometimes utilize the BIP-RA if the intake roadway needs to be rockdusted during their shift.
 - Borehole provides clean fresh air until rockdust clears in the intake roadway.
 - Entered once during every 8-hour period as part of the normal preshift.
 - Check for hazards.
 - Verify airflow direction is correct.
- Locating and entering them is included in evacuation drills.
- BIP-RA structures have been used as underground classrooms for various training scenarios.

Key Learnings from our Experience

- Initial installations were installed as part of the Escape System.
 - Still referred to as Escape Shelters at San Juan Mine.
- Borehole fans enhance that ventilation volume and assure positive pressure inside the RA.
- Major ventilation changes must consider impact on RA ventilation.
 - They can impact RA ventilation and its performance.
- Regular inspections of ventilation, supplies and RA conditions are necessary.
 - Including verification of airflows provided by blowers.
- Site selection is critical, surface and underground.
 - Surface waterflows, especially during storm events.
 - All-weather access to surface sites.
 - Underground water or gas make can have a negative impact on performance.



Congratulations Dakota Westmoreland! North Dakota PSC 2015 State Reclamation Award







Congratulations WMLP! 2016 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation



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