

Usibelli Coal Mine
Wishbone Hill Coal Mining and Processing Operation
Public Access Control Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the Public Access Control Plan that will be used to protect the general public from health and safety hazards incident to the industrial activities planned at the Wishbone Hill Coal Mining and Processing Operation (Wishbone Hill). Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. (Usibelli) proposes to mine the western end of the Wishbone Hill coal district on the southwestern extent of Wishbone Hill. The permitted area for the project is located on lands leased from the State of Alaska and the Matanuska Susitna Borough and also on land owned by Usibelli. This plan describes the access control plan that will be used to implement the access restrictions.

Usibelli is fully committed to meeting the applicable Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAAQS) at the ambient air quality boundary of the project. A primary purpose of this plan is to delineate the area to be protected and controlled for occupational health and safety (within the ambient air quality boundary) from the area that is subject to unrestricted, general public access where the AAAQS are applicable (outside the ambient air quality boundary). A secondary purpose is to ensure that measures are in place to restrict public access within the ambient air quality boundary.

General Information

Usibelli coal mining operations will be conducted on the western end of the Wishbone Hill coal district on the southwestern extent of Wishbone Hill. Currently, access to the property is by a gravel road from the Glenn Highway. The gravel road will later be upgraded in conjunction with the construction of the mine facilities as shown on Plate 1. The nearest community to the site is Palmer, which is located approximately eight miles to the southwest.

Usibelli is allowed to mine in the areas within its boundary as shown on Plate 1. As mining activity is not planned to occur everywhere within the boundary at once, access to non-active areas of the mine can be granted as long as public safety and compliance with air quality regulations is maintained. Active mine areas are initially planned to occur in the southern and western portions of the Usibelli Wishbone Hill boundary and after a number of years the activity will move to the northern portion of the Wishbone Hill mine area.

Because of the sequencing of mining operations Usibelli has established a phased-in ambient air quality boundary (AAQB) commensurate with the mining plan. The first phase will be during

construction and operations of the facilities area and Mine Area 1. The AAQB is shown on Plate 1. The second phase will encompass the larger area and will extend to mine permit boundary as shown on Plate 1. Dispersion modeling has been conducted and demonstrates modeled compliance with all applicable AAAQS at all points on and outside of the ambient air quality boundary for both phases 1 and phase 2.

Public Access Control Measures

Physical and Natural Barriers

The AAQB will change over the course of the life of the mine as mining activities transition from Mine Area 1 to Mine Area 2. The two phases of the AAQB corresponding with these two mining phases are shown on Plate 1. The Phase 1 AAQB corresponds with the ambient air receptor placement boundary as modeled in support of the air quality permit application. The land within the Phase 1 AAQB encompasses approximately 900 acres of the total 1,285 acres within the Wishbone Hill Mine Boundary which includes the Phase 2 AAQB.

Part of the AAQB includes the mine access road. At the Glenn Highway intersection, public access on this road will be controlled by a gate that will be locked when the road is not in use.

At other parts of the Wishbone Hill area, significant terrain and topographic relief changes in the Wishbone Hill mining area as well as different vegetative species will act as physical barriers to access of the active mine sites for both phases of the planned mining operations. The combination of terrain and vegetation preclude access to most of the mine area. Fencing will be placed at locations at which terrain and vegetation is not sufficiently restrictive to prevent public access.

The terrain and topographic relief features include significant bluffs extending from the Moose Creek bed eastward to the AAQB which is a sufficient barrier to access. Along the southern and eastern boundaries are series of ridge lines which act as barriers to access.

Vegetative barriers in the form of dense treed areas as well as dense lower shrubbery growths of spiny Devils Club (*Oplopana horridus*) occur in many parts of the Wishbone Hill area. This spiny vegetation is sufficiently dense to act as a natural barrier in the same manner as terrain.

A few trails exist that have recorded public easements which transect the Usibelli Wishbone Hill area. The public rights-of-way (easements) will be relocated outside of the AAQB when needed to restrict public access within the AAQB. The Public Right-of-Way 52715 will be relocated off the active Wishbone Hill area for much of its length. South of the AAQB, this relocated segment of Public Right-of-Way 52715 is shown in Plate 1.

Where Public Right-of-Way 52715 crosses the mine access road south of the facilities area (Figure 1), a set of gates will be placed on each side of the crossing prohibiting the public to the mine access road. Controlled access at the crossing will be maintained with either 4-way stop signs or a large diameter culvert under the access road.

West of the mine road crossing, the right-of-way will pass south of the AAQB through vegetation and along a ridge line which is a sufficient physical barrier to deter the public from leaving the right-of-way trail and to hinder access to the AAQB, maintaining the integrity of the AAQB.

At the point Right-of-Way 52715 crosses the property boundary adjacent to the southwestern portion of the mine area, fencing will be placed at locations at which terrain and vegetation is not sufficiently restrictive to prevent public access(e.g., as the right of way approaches the active Mine Area 1 and at the point the AAQB crosses Moose Creek. See Figure 2)

The terrain is more gently sloping in the area of the Moose Creek crossing of Public Right-of-Way 52715. Once the right-of-way crosses Moose Creek at the Moose Creek crossing, the terrain upstream and north of the crossing steepens significantly from the Moose Creek bed, along the Wishbone Hill boundary. As a result, access to the active mine area through the Phase 1 AAQB will be prevented by that restrictive terrain.

Any existing trails within the Phase 1 AAQB will be blocked. There will be no relocation of any existing trails with recorded rights-of-way other than Right-of-Way 52715. Along the northern boundary of the Phase 1 AAQB, vegetation and terrain features will prevent public access. No recorded easements exist in this area such that passage through this area will be prevented by vegetation and terrain.

Along the eastern boundary, vegetation and terrain will form natural barriers. The lack of designated rights-of-way other than Right-of-Way 52715 will hinder access to the AAQB.

Security fencing will also be constructed around the facilities area and as noted above at the southwest end of Mine Area 1 if terrain and vegetative barriers are not adequate to deter access. The fencing in the southwest mine area will generally conform to the Phase 1 AAQB. The fencing will be periodically marked with signage as described below.

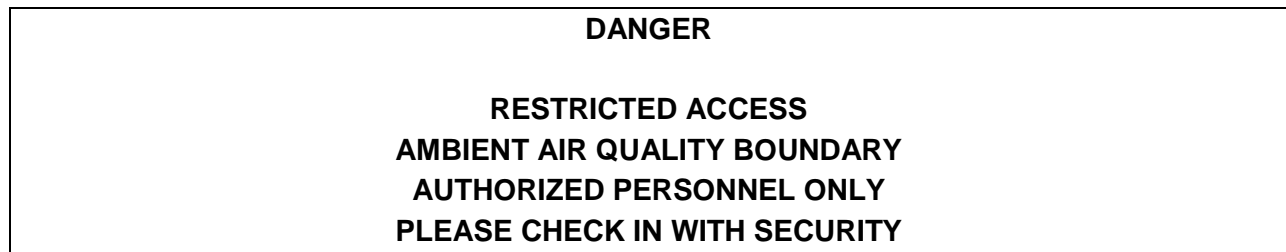
The AAQB will be posted with signs at regular intervals along the entire boundary to ensure public awareness of the limits to access.

Posting

Usibelli will post signs at strategic locations to further deter public access. The signs will be posted at the intersection of the Glenn Highway and the mine access road, the intersection of

public right-of-way ADL 52715 and the mine access road, at all trails showing active use along the ambient air quality boundary, and in strategic locations along the natural barrier portion of the ambient air quality boundary. The sign specifications will be as follows:

- Each sign will be 2 feet by 4 feet and will be mounted on posts.
- Each sign will be inspected semi-annually and will be repaired or replaced, as necessary.
- Each sign will be free of visible obstructions.
- Each sign will read:



Proposed Surveillance

For all operations, all on-site personnel will be informed of the public safety reasons and air permitting requirements to restrict public access at the AAQB. All personnel will be asked to observe the location perimeter as they conduct their regular duties. Any suspected violation of the AAQB by unauthorized individual(s) will be immediately reported to mine management.

Mine personnel will periodically observe the perimeter of the facilities area. If unauthorized individual(s) are observed, a log of the time and date of the observation will be recorded on the attached form. A record of the completed logs will be maintained on location in the Wishbone Hill Mine office.

Trespass Individuals

If a mine employee observes an unauthorized individual(s) within the AAQB, appropriate measures will be taken by the employee to address potential health and safety concerns. If safety is not of immediate concern, mine employees will be instructed to use the following protocol when dealing with unauthorized entry. A log of the incident will be recorded on the attached form and filed at the mine office for future reference.

- Approach the unauthorized person (or persons) and request that they leave the area immediately.

- If the unauthorized individual(s) refuse to leave the area after the above request, the individuals(s) will be informed that they are in an area in which the AAAQS may not be met and that State regulations require Usibelli to restrict entry to the posted area to authorized personnel only. The unauthorized person or persons will again be asked to leave the AAQB area.
- If the unauthorized individual(s) still refuse to leave, the individual(s) will be informed that Usibelli will not be liable or responsible for any harm they may encounter by being in a restricted entry area.
- In the event the Usibelli employee believes the individual(s) health and safety may be at risk by being within the AAQB, the employee may elect to call local authorities to have the individual(s) removed from the area.

The mine personnel will also request the name or names of the unauthorized individual(s) at that time. The mine employee will then log the encounter with the unauthorized individual(s) on the surveillance monitoring form. The data to be logged in such a situation will include:

1. Day and time;
2. The name of the individual(s) (if known or otherwise provided);
3. The method of entry into the property (e.g. by foot, snow machine, etc.);
4. Duration of unauthorized presence within the AAQB; and
5. Other pertinent information as appropriate.

Ambient Air Quality Boundary
Surveillance Monitoring Form

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Surveillance Conducted by</u>	<u>Surveillance Comments</u>

Figure 1 – Access Road Crossing

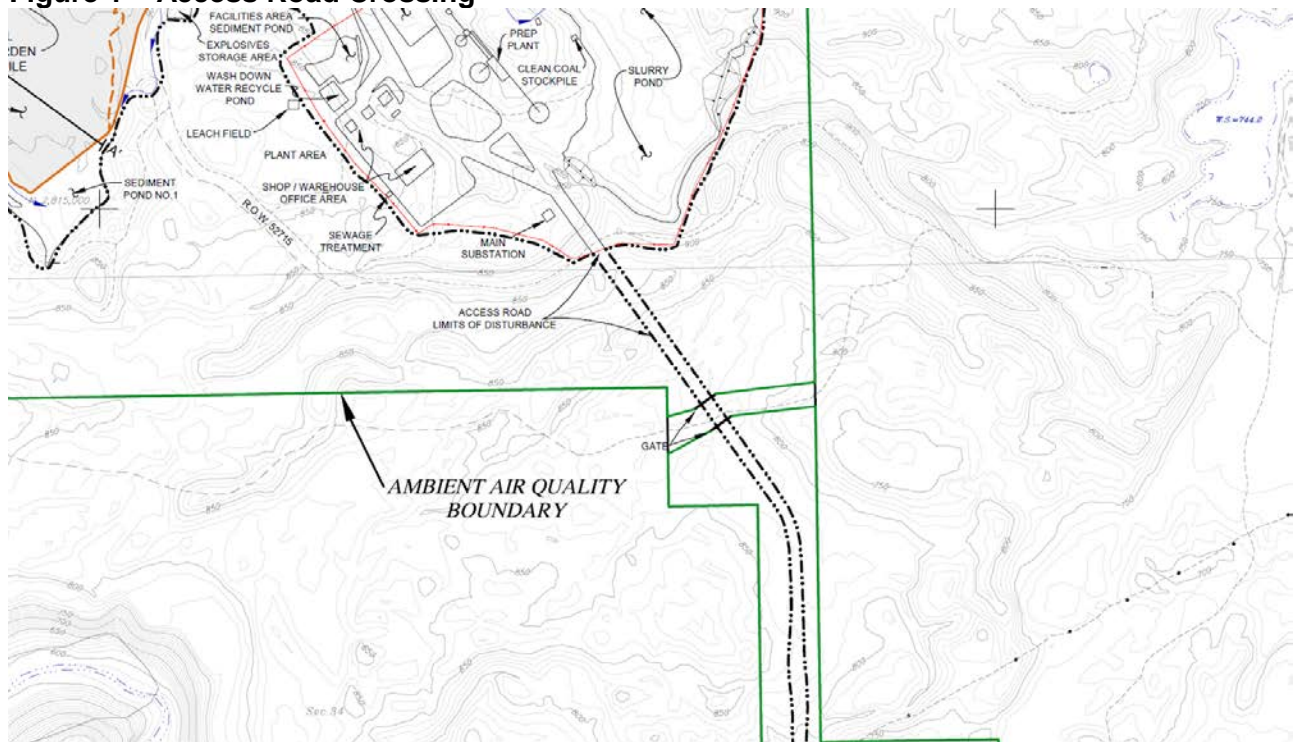


Figure 2 – Mine Area 1 West

