

Blast Design

The following blast design pertains to blasting within 1,000 feet of any building used as a dwelling, public building, school, church, or community or institutional building outside the permit area, or within 500 feet of an active or abandoned underground mine. Approval will be obtained from MSHA prior to conducting blasting within 500 feet of an active underground mine. There are no underground mines within 500 feet of the Wild horse Ridge potential blasting areas. This design describes the use of blasting to break large rocks encountered during construction. This design will be used in the construction of the Wild Horse Ridge conveyor access roads in the event rocks are encountered which are too large for the equipment to move, or cutting into bedrock is required. A hunting cabin exists within the permit area approximately 750 feet from the nearest potential blasting zone for the Wild Horse Ridge areas. This building is not used as a dwelling, public building, school, church, or community or institutional building. No other buildings exist outside the permit area within 1,000 feet of the proposed Wild Horse Ridge roads and facilities.

Two types of blasting are anticipated during normal operation and construction, special one time blasting designs will be included as attachments. The first is a situation where large rocks will require breaking up to move. The second type is bench blasting in areas where bedrock is encountered which must be cut into. In both cases, holes to be used will be 1½" diameter, 4' deep and will be spaced 4' apart. Figure 5E-1 shows the typical pattern and the layout for the bench holes. To break up rocks, holes will be drilled into the rock at an adequate depth to fracture the rock, not to exceed 4'. Holes will be spaced approximately 4' apart.