CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
Mining and Reclamation Plan  
Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines

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**FIGURES**

- Figure 1-1  Area of Operation  
- Figure 1-2  Permit Area
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Operation

Mountain Coal Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Atlantic Richfield Company, currently operates one coal processing and loadout facility near Price, Utah. In addition, it has two permanently reclaimed mine sites, the Huntington Canyon No. 4 Mine and the Gordon Creek No. 3/6 Mines, and one minesite which has initiated final reclamation, the Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines, which is the subject of this application (See Figure 1-1).

The Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines consisted of 3 separate mines which shared common surface and support facilities. The mines are located in Bryner Canyon northwest of Price, Utah. The Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine was opened in 1969 and remained in continuous production until October, 1985, at which time it was considered mined out and sealed. The Gordon Creek No. 7 Mine was opened in 1984 and was mined out and sealed in 1989. The Gordon Creek No. 8 Mine was opened in November, 1989 and mined out and sealed in November, 1990.

The original surface disturbance at the Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine was done prior to enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Disturbance for the No. 7 and 8 Mines took place subsequent to the Act, under approval from the Division.
Final reclamation of the 2/7/8 site has been initiated. All structures have been removed, and all portals have been sealed and backfilled according to the approved plans.

Sealing took place in December 1990, structure removal was in 1991, and portal backfilling took place in the fall of 1992. In addition, limited highwall reclamation has taken place in 1992. This was done under agreement with the Division and accomplished the backfilling of the portals and covering of the exposed coal seams in preparation for the complete reclamation.

1.1.1 Revision of Plan

Under agreement with the Division, this plan is being revised and re-submitted solely as a Reclamation Plan. This revision will eliminate all discussions of operation, and concentrate on the reclamation plans and designs. Deficiencies and other concerns indicated by the Division will also be addressed in this revised plan.
1.2 Environmental Impacts

The permit area (See Figure 1-2) is located on the eastern edge of the Wasatch Plateau and is characterized by steep, narrow canyons containing conspicuous sandstone cliffs. Intermittent and perennial streams occupy the drainages. The complex geological and geomorphological conditions have produced a variety of site specific soils that support the Douglas-fir forest, Sagebrush grassland, and Oak-scrub vegetation communities. These habitats in turn support a variety of wildlife.

A distinction of an underground mine is its minimal effect on these ecosystems. The relatively small scale of surface disturbance, when operated with proper drainage and sedimentation controls, causes negligible impact to the prevailing hydrologic balance of the area. Subsidence, a potential problem with any underground mining, will be monitored. Fractures which may develop as subsidence occurs could very well serve to increase groundwater infiltration and storage and simply change local groundwater migration and discharge locations. The temporary loss of wildlife habitat due to reclamation is negligible in light of the abundant nearby habitat in which displaced wildlife can reside. Upon cessation of mining, portal sealing and re-establishment of final topography and drainage will proceed. Revegetation of disturbed areas will replace native habitat and land uses that existed prior to mining and post-reclamation monitoring management will assure the permanency of the reclaimed area upon bond release.
1.3 *Document Organization*

The mining permit application has been prepared according to General Guidelines for Permit Application Organizational Format and Contents issued by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOG&M). The application readily lends itself to distribution for review by separate disciplines by containing discrete sections discussing environmental resource topics, mining operations, environmental protection and reclamation, and legal and administrative matters. Plates, figures and tables are included within each applicable section rather than as attachments in order to facilitate the review. A detailed table of contents and accompanying cross-reference to all applicable regulations of The State of Utah, R645-Coal Mining Rules, provides reviewers with a checklist assuring that all requirements of the regulatory program have been met.

The document has been updated to contain the most current information, and unnecessary information has been eliminated in an effort to make the permit more clear and concise. The use of a cross-reference to the R645 Regulations, rather than a total reconfiguration of the plan has been verbally approved by the Division on 12/1/92.
1.4 Verification of Application

I, as an official of the applicant, hereby certify that the information and engineering designs used in preparation of this document, including all maps, plan and specifications, were prepared under my direct supervision.

I further certify that to the best of my knowledge all such information and design is in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

Dan W. Guy, P.E.  
Name

Mountain Coal Company  
Firm

P.O. Box 1378  
Price, Utah 84501  
Address
1.5 Certificate of Delivery

I, Dan W. Guy, hereby certify that an updated Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Mountain Coal Company Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines under the State of Utah Permanent Regulatory Program was properly filed with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources on August 6, 1993.

Dan W. Guy
1.6 Referenced Material

All referenced materials are provided with the plan, normally as Appendices at the end of the chapter. The only exception to this may be references to government or other readily available publications.

1.7 Reporting of Technical Data

All technical data in the plan is accompanied by names of person or organizations that collected and analyzed the data, dates of collection and analysis, and descriptions of the methodology used. Reports and other technical analyses are normally included as Appendices.

Technical analyses have been planned by or under the direction of a professional qualified in the subject.

1.8 Maps and Plans

Maps submitted with this application are intended to be in a consolidated format, and meet the size requirements of R645-301-141. In addition, maps show the existing and proposed states of the operation/reclamation at each phase of reclamation.

1.9 Completeness

This plan has been revised and cross-referenced to the R645-301 regulations to ensure that each of the applicable 301 requirements are met.

1.10 Filing Fee

A filing fee of $5.00 has been submitted to the Division for this permit.