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May 31, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Peter H. Hess, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Engineering, Team Lead *PHH bryan*

FROM: Michael J. Suflita, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Hydrology *MJS*

RE: Midterm Review, Lodestar Energy, Inc., White Oak Mine, C/007/001-MT02

SUMMARY:

The White Oak Mine is due for its midterm review. This Technical Memo is a review of the Hydrologic aspects of the Mining and Reclamation Plan and a visit to the mine site to confirm on-the-ground conditions. There are no deficiencies.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

TECHNICAL MEMO

Water quality standards and effluent limitations

During a field visit with the Operator, Dave Miller, on April 30, 2002 a pair of chemical storage tanks was noted at the loadout area. Each tank contains over 1,000 gallons. They are situated at the southeast end of the loadout area just east of the railroad tracks. They were said to contain coal antifreeze used to keep the coal from clumping during the winter. This situation may be a concern since the chemical may have adverse environmental characteristics.

While the exact concern is unknown, the Operator is reminded of R645-301-751, which states:

Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations. Discharges of water from areas disturbed by coal mining and reclamation operations will be made in compliance with all Utah and federal water quality laws and regulations and with effluent limitations for coal mining promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set forth in 40 CFR Part 434.

In the event this material spills, it would flow along the railroad tracks and eventually be contained in the sediment pond. However, sediment ponds are NOT designed for chemical spills. It's certain the chemical would soak into the ground with potential for groundwater contamination, which could, in turn, contaminate Mud Creek. This stream is located a few hundred feet away down-drainage. Since the tanks have not ruptured or otherwise discharged, no State regulations are being violated. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan for each mine. The tanks discussed here are certainly candidates for inclusion in that plan. It's possible the mine is now in violation of EPA requirements since there are no berms or other containment structures around the tanks. The Operator is strongly encouraged to review EPA requirements and provide containment structures if needed.

Diversions

A field visit showed existing diversions, ditches and culverts, are properly installed and functioning as intended.

Stream buffer zones

A field visit showed stream buffer zones are properly signed and no activities are being conducted within the buffer zones.

Sediment control measures

A field visit showed the one alternate sediment control area is a pump house site just below the sediment pond. It is vegetated and functioning well.

Sedimentation ponds

A field visit showed the sediment pond at the lower end of the site is functioning as intended. It's noteworthy that this same pond has worked for many years before surface mining was used at White Oak and continues to serve today. The pond is appropriately designed for current use as previously determined in an approved amendment.

Findings:

The mine is in compliance with minimum regulatory requirements and is using the Best Technology Currently Available (BTCA).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Midterm Review, including a field visit on April 30, 2002, showed the mine to be in regulatory compliance and mining can be continued as previously approved.