



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

March 5, 1982

(File) ACT/007/004  
Copy to Jack, Ran,  
Tan, Lynn  
& me

JIM

MAR 18 1982

Mr. James W. Smith, Jr.  
Coordinator of Mined Land Development  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to the February 19, 1982 registered letter from Thomas Tetting of your staff addressed to Mr. Robert Wiley of the Price River Coal Company, and copied to the Office of Surface Mining. Mr. Tetting's letter grants conditional approval for the Crandall Canyon modification mining and reclamation plan "based upon acceptance and implementation of seventeen separate stipulations herewith attached."

Since the Crandall Canyon Modification involves Federally owned coal presently permitted under 30 CFR 211 regulations, it is an action falling under the purview of the Federal Lands Program. We have reviewed our records and have found no indication of OSM approval for the action referenced in Mr. Tetting's February 19, 1982 letter to the applicant. (A summary of events relating to this proposed action is attached.) Our most recent communication, that of January 15, 1982, only provided concurrence with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining that the Crandall Canyon Modification mining and reclamation plan is apparently complete.

Since the processing of this application is now well along, i.e., the Technical Analysis has been prepared by the State, it may be possible for this office to schedule an early review and to process the proposed action as a major modification to the 211 permit. If OSM concurs with the State's analysis such that approval can be recommended, the application for a major modification would then be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary. In the meantime, however, the Price River Coal Company does not have authority to conduct operations other than under the existing approved conditions (30 CFR 741.11).

We therefore respectfully request your office rescind the February 19, 1982 conditional approval for the Crandall Canyon Modification.

Sincerely,

*Richard E. Dawes*

Richard E. Dawes  
Acting Administrator  
Western Technical Center

Attachments

cc: Dean Hunt

**RECEIVED**

MAR 11 1982

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS  
RELATING TO THE  
CRANDALL CANYON MODIFICATION  
OF THE  
PRICE RIVER MINING COMPLEX

Background: The Crandall Canyon Modification is a part of the Price River Mining Complex. The Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) for the Complex was submitted to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on September 22, 1978. An Apparent Completeness Review (ACR) has not been started on the MRP for the Price River Mining Complex. The Complex consists of the following mine plant facilities: The surface plant, which is located on the old Castle Gate town-site, includes transfer bins, crusher and screening plant, storage piles, conveyors, washing plant, settling ponds, reject bin, train loadout facilities, laboratory, shops, office, thickener tank, warehouse, bathhouse and parking area. Portal facilities consisting of office, shop, warehouse, and bathhouse facilities are located at each of the No. 3 and No. 5 mine portals.

The Crandall Canyon Modification consists of construction plans for the following facilities: Two mine shafts, a Class II access road, water and gas lines, mine ventilation system, men and materials hoisting system, bathhouse-office building, sewage treatment plant, workshop-warehouse building and storage area, parking area, electrical power substation and line, and stream channel diversions.

Chronology:

1. June 30, 1981 -- Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (Utah DOGM), with verbal concurrence from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), approved construction of 46 kilovolt power line in Crandall Canyon (across Bureau of Land Management land).
2. July 20, 1981 -- Letter from Utah DOGM to OSM stating the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) for the Crandall Canyon Modification was determined incomplete [regarding Apparent Completeness Review (ACR)].
3. July 21, 1981 -- Utah DOGM letter to Price River Coal Company (PRCC) stating MRP for Crandall Canyon Modification was determined incomplete (regarding ACR).
4. July 30, 1981 -- Utah DOGM letter informing OSM of their decision to approve PRCC's plan to construct a 6 month emergency heliport facility in support of new power line construction.
5. September 16, 1981 -- Copy of 22 page response to Utah DOGM ACR by PRCC for the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP.
6. October 19, 1981 -- Utah DOGM letter to OSM documenting the United States Fish and Wildlife Service power line surveys and determination that raptor electrocution problems are not anticipated in Crandall Canyon project area.

7. October 22, 1981 -- Letter from Utah DOGM to OSM asking if there are any questions regarding the installation of the access road to the Crandall Canyon Modification. PRCC was informed by Utah DOGM that permission was granted to "mobilize construction crews" as of October 22, 1981.
8. November 6, 1981 -- Letter from Utah DOGM to OSM stating Utah DOGM has found the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP to be complete and is still awaiting OSM response on road modification.
9. November 9, 1981 -- OSM in Denver, Colorado received memo from OSM Civil Engineer in Kansas City, Missouri approving Crandall Canyon access road design.
10. November 9, 1981 -- OSM gave verbal concurrence on "minor" modification to a 211 permit of the Crandall Canyon access road. This road is located on private land.
11. November 12, 1981 -- Letter from Utah DOGM to PRCC informing of verbal concurrence from OSM on road construction. Included a copy of Determination of Completeness (DOC) Review completed by Utah DOGM staff. The DOC referred to was not attached, but it is assumed that this is the same DOC referenced in Utah DOGM's November 6, 1981 letter covering the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP. Letter states that concurrence has not been received from OSM on DOC for the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP and a consolidated DOC is expected by the middle of December, 1981.
12. December 1, 1981 -- Letter from PRCC to OSM enclosing copy of completed information on waste water handling for Crandall Canyon Modification.
13. December 8, 1981 -- letter from Utah DOGM to PRCC stating that leachfield design plans for the Crandall Canyon Modification were received and would be included in the final Technical Analysis (TA) of the Crandall Canyon Modification to the Price River Mining Complex MRP.
14. December 11, 1981 -- Letter from Utah to PRCC informing company of an administrative delay in the review of Price River Complex MRP. Staff shortages and reviews of modifications rather than permanent permit applications have caused delays.
15. December 17, 1981 -- Letter from Utah DOGM to OSM stating that the Utah DOGM has determined the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP apparently complete. This letter states the following, "An approved plan will be incorporated into the complete complex plan insofar as becoming an integral part that will not need to be reviewed at a future date."
16. January 12, 1982 -- Telephone conversation between Tom Tetting of Utah DOGM and John Montgomery of OSM. Mr. Tetting informed Mr. Montgomery that Utah DOGM would be conducting an "in-house" review of the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP. According to

16. Mr. Tetting, after this process was completed, the approved Crandall (cont'd.) Canyon Modification plans would be "shelved" until the Price River Complex MRP was ready for review. At that time, the Crandall Canyon Modification plans would be reactivated and become a part of the Price River Complex MRP review process.
17. January 15, 1982 -- Based on clarification provided by Tom Tetting's telephone conversation of 1/12/82, OSM sent letter to Utah DOGM concurring that the Crandall Canyon Modification MRP is apparently complete. This concurrence was given with the understanding that at the time when the Price River Complex MRP completeness determination is made, the Crandall Canyon Modification completeness determination will be included in the newspaper publications and agency notifications required under UMC 786.11 (a) and (b).
18. February 19, 1982 -- Utah DOGM sent OSM a copy of their letter to PRCC informing them that they (Utah DOGM) have completed the technical review of the Crandall Canyon Modification. The letter stated, "A conditional approval is hereby given based upon acceptance and implementation of seventeen separate stipulations herewith attached:" OSM was told (1/12/82 telephone conversation) that Utah DOGM was not planning to approve the Crandall Canyon Modification at this time. OSM had not seen the State's TA and stipulations prior to receipt of the copy of this letter to the company.
19. February 26, 1982 -- Telephone conversation between Tom Tetting of Utah DOGM and John Montgomery of OSM. Mr. Tetting informed Mr. Montgomery that Utah DOGM has granted PRCC the approval to complete the Crandall Canyon Modification. According to Mr. Tetting, PRCC plans to start construction at the Crandall Canyon site this spring--1982.