



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director  
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

May 18, 1982

Mr. Gordon Cook  
Vice President  
Price River Coal Company  
P.O. Box 85  
Helper, Utah 84526

RE: Approval  
Crandall Canyon Project  
Modification  
Price River Complex  
ACT/007/004  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Cook:

The Office of Surface Mining has completed its Environmental Assessment of Price River Coal Company's Crandall Canyon Project and has not identified any significant environmental impacts as a result of the proposed action. They have also determined that there is to be a limited amount of surface disturbance and there is an emergency element in connection with the mine's ventilation needs. For these reasons, and the fact that review for the Price River Company permanent program application will be undertaken as expeditiously as possible, the Office of Surface Mining concurs with the Division's February 19, 1982 conditional approval of Price River's Crandall Canyon Project as a minor modification to the existing approved interim mining and reclamation plan (MRP).

In addition to the Division's stipulations outlined in the above letter, the Office of Surface Mining's concurrence for approval is subject to the following stipulation:

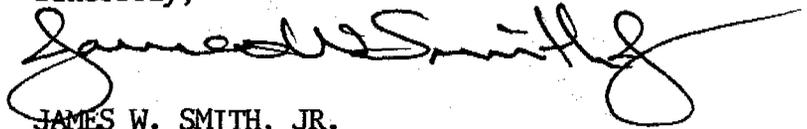
Within 90 days of acceptance of the Administrator's approval, the Price River Coal Company shall submit to the regulatory authority (Division) for their approval, a plan for placement of excavated material (waste rock). This plan must address location of excavated shaft material (both on and off the Crandall Canyon site), suitability, of placement (i.e., safety factor), final topography and stability, chemical analysis of excavated material, and drainage control in accordance with UMC 817.71 through 817.74. No new surface disturbance shall take place until this plan has been submitted to and approved by the regulatory authority."

Mr. Gordon Cook  
May 18, 1982  
Page Two

The Office of Surface Mining wishes to emphasize that the June 30, 1982 deadline for Price River's response to the completeness review, as outlined in the previously established review schedule for the Complex MRP, is to be regarded as a firm date. Also, please be advised that the hydrologic impacts of the Crandall Canyon facility will be included in the assessment of cumulative hydrologic impacts to be carried out for the Price River Complex.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Office of Surface Mining's Environmental Assessment of the Crandall Canyon Modification. Should you have any questions regarding this approval, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



JAMES W. SMITH, JR.  
COORDINATOR OF MINED LAND DEVELOPMENT

JWS/te

Enc: E.A.

cc: Allen D. Klein, OSM



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement

BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

April 30, 1982

File  
ACT 1001/004  
Copy to Tam T.  
& Lynn  
JIM

RECEIVED MAY 0 4 1982  
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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Cleon B. Feight, Director  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 81114

Dear Mr. Feight:

This letter is to provide the Office of Surface Mining's concurrence with the Division's February 19, 1982 conditional approval (with stipulations) of a minor modification to the Price River Complex in Crandall Canyon. The proposed action is for the construction of ventilation/access shafts and related surface facilities at Crandall Canyon in accordance with the plan submitted to this office on March 20, 1981. The Geological Survey has also concurred with this action in their March 30, 1981 letter (attached).

Our approval is subject to the following stipulation: Within 90 days of acceptance of the Administrator's approval, the Price River Coal Company shall submit to the regulatory authority for their approval, a plan for placement of excavated shaft material (waste rock). This plan must address location of excavated shaft material (both on and off the Crandall Canyon site), stability of placement (i.e., safety factor), final topography and its stability, chemical analysis of excavated material, and drainage control in accordance with UMC 817.71 through 817.74. No new surface disturbance shall take place until this plan has been submitted to and approved by the regulatory authority.

We believe it is proper for the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to approve this action as a minor modification to the existing approved Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Price River Complex (formerly Braztah Mines) for the following reasons: 1) there is to be a limited amount of surface disturbance, 2) the Environmental Assessment has not identified any significant environmental impacts that should result from the proposed action, 3) the proposed action contains an emergency element in connection with ventilation needs for the underground mine workings, and 4) the complete Price River Complex is to be reviewed as expeditiously as possible following the applicant's timely response to OSM's May 29, 1981 completeness review.

John Montgomery has discussed with Tom Tetting a schedule for the applicant's response to our completeness review of the Price River Complex Mining and Reclamation Plan, review of this response by OSM and UDOGM, preparation of a Technical Analysis by an OSM contractor, response to Technical Analysis deficiencies by the applicant, and review of the Technical Analysis and decision document by OSM and UDOGM. The times agreed upon must necessarily be estimates pending our development of the contractor's scope of work. However, I wish to emphasize that the June 30, 1982 deadline for Price River Coal Company's response to the completeness review is to be regarded by them as a firm date. Finally, the applicant should be advised that the hydrologic impacts of the Crandall Canyon facility will be included in the assessment of cumulative hydrologic impacts to be carried out for the Price River Complex.

Thank you for your cooperation in working with us to move this action forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen D. Klein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Allen D. Klein  
Administrator  
Western Technical Center

Enclosure

UT0007



# United States Department of the Interior

SL-029093  
SL-071737

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Office of the District Mining Supervisor  
Conservation Division  
2040 Administration Building  
1745 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

March 30, 1981

### Memorandum

To: Regional Director, OSM, Denver

From: District Mining Supervisor, USGS-CD,  
Salt Lake City

Subject: Price River Coal Company No. 3 Mine,  
Crandall Canyon Project

The one volume submittal of the subject project which was transmitted with your letter dated March 12, 1981, was received in this office on March 19, 1981. This is a complete subsection to the permanent program mining and reclamation plan to be submitted by the company in the near future. We have reviewed this submittal for completeness relative to USGS-CD responsibilities under Federal regulations 30 CFR 211.10 (c) dated May 17, 1976, as amended August 22, 1978, and pursuant to the cooperative agreement between our offices. We have determined the submission to be complete and technically adequate for our administration of the associated Federal leases. The submitted material is principally a surface facility associated with shafts that are necessary to provide improved access and mine ventilation to more completely recover the coal resource. The shafts will give access to three minable coal seams and are compatible with the underground approved mine plans.

*Jackson W. Moffitt*  
Jackson W. Moffitt

cc: Denver  
Price River Coal  
Mine Plan File



## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### Price River Coal Company's Crandall Canyon Modification to the Price River Mining Complex

#### I. Introduction:

The Price River Coal Company (PRCC), as part of their overall Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) for the Price River Complex, is presently in the process of beginning construction of two mine ventilation shafts and building an access road in Crandall Canyon (approved by the State of Utah and the Office of Surface Mining in 1980). PRCC is also planning to construct other surface support structures in Crandall Canyon that have not received approval from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). This project is known as the Crandall Canyon Modification. The plans for the modification have been reviewed in a technical analysis by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (UDOGM) and were conditionally approved by UDOGM on February 19, 1982 (Technical Analysis based upon acceptance and implementation of seventeen (17) separate stipulations). The Geological Survey concurred with these plans via letter to OSM on March 30, 1981.

The proposed action is to concur with the UDOGM's conditional approval (with stipulations) of a minor modification to the Price River Complex in Crandall Canyon and to add an additional stipulation. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to identify the existing and future impacts in order to make that decision.

The Crandall Canyon ventilation shafts and associated structures are to be located near the town of Helper, just west of State Route #6 in northwestern Carbon County, Utah; Township 12 South, Range 9 East, Sections 27, 28, and 29. The affected surface area will be approximately 28 acres. The modification will provide ventilation and access for men and equipment to PRCC's #3 and #5 underground mines, the portals for which are located south of Crandall Canyon in Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch, respectively. Coal will not be removed through the shafts or hauled through the Crandall Canyon surface facilities.

Following completion of the Crandall Canyon facility (and construction of an underground coal conveyor system at a later date), operations in Hardscrabble Canyon and Sowbelly Gulch will be phased out, and the portal facilities will be removed and reclaimed. This process will require about 3 years following the completion of the Crandall Canyon facility. This phase-out and reclamation process will ultimately result in the reclamation of about 30 acres of surface land that are presently in active use.

#### II. Purpose of Proposed Action:

The proposed facilities are required to provide necessary improvements in mine ventilation and to reduce the underground transportation time for men and materials during the projected 30 year life-of-the-mine.

III. Preferred Alternative:

A. The Applicant's Proposal:

The Crandall Canyon Modification consists of construction plans for the following facilities: Two mine shafts, a Class II access road of 7,500 feet, a Class III access road of 5,000 feet, water and gas lines, mine ventilation system, men and materials hoisting system, bathhouse-office building, sewage treatment plant, leachfield, workshop-warehouse building and storage area, parking area, and a stream channel diversion totalling approximately 3,000 feet.

B. The Office of Surface Mining's Action:

The Office of Surface Mining concurs with the Division's (UDOGM) February 19, 1982 approval of the Crandall Canyon Modification with the following stipulations:

1. Stipulation - 2-19-82-1TT (UMC 817.11)

The applicant must submit a statement to the Division to the effect that all signs; identification, perimeter and otherwise, have been installed and conform specifically to the 817.11 regulations.

2. Stipulation - 2-19-82-2TT (UMC 817.13-.15)

The applicant should submit a statement to the Division that all exploration holes and monitoring wells will be or have been abandoned in accordance with UMC 187.13-.15. (Although never specifically mentioned, the applicant is assumed to be aware of the minimum State and U.S. Geological Survey requirements.)

3. Stipulation - 2-19-82-3EH (UMC 817.22)

The applicant must indicate the depth and volume of soil to be removed from each area of construction. These figures are needed to insure enough soil material is available to provide the six inch depth of resoiling proposed by the applicant.

4. Stipulation - 2-19-82-4EH (UMC 817.22)

The applicant must indicate the equipment and methods to be employed in removal from insitu and transporting of topsoil to storage locations.

5. Stipulation - 2-19-82-5EH (UMC 817.23)

The applicant must address the methods of erosion control used to insure topsoil stockpile protection prior to plant establishment.

6. Stipulation - 2-19-82-6EH (UMC 817.24)

The applicant must provide the equipment and methods employed to insure that the requirements set forth under UMC 187.24 are achieved.

7. Stipulation - 2-19-82-7SK (UMC 817.45)

If an NPDES permit is not required, then the operator shall carry out storm discharge monitoring from the two oil separators. Data shall be gathered at least once per 90 day period (assuming an occurrence of runoff). An analysis of the first flush should be carried out with at least one more discharge sample obtained 10 minutes later. Those parameters included in the impact monitoring program shall be applied to this analysis.

8. Stipulation - 2-19-82-8SK (UMC 817.46)

The applicant must submit detailed design specifications addressing UMC 187.46 (j-u), as applicable, to assure the stable construction and operation of pond 016.

9. Stipulation - 2-19-82-9SK (UMC 817.47)

A plan must be submitted to the Division and approved at least 60 days prior to construction; the applicant must provide:

Detailed design specifications for the constructed spillway on pond 016. Include the design for point of discharge.

10. Stipulation - 2-19-82-10SK (UMC 817.47)

The applicant must provide:

Designs indicating stormwater routing for upper and lower pad through oil separators.

11. Stipulation - 2-19-82-11SK (UMC 817.54)

The applicant must describe adjacent water uses which may be impacted by the shaft excavation and determine a means for supplying water if interruption, contamination or diminution occurs.

12. Stipulation - 2-19-82-12SK (UMC 817.56)

Price River Coal Company must submit an adequate discussion on measures to renovate the permanent Crandall Creek stream channel diversion at the time of final reclamation.

13. Stipulation - 2-19-82-13MR (UMC 817.89)

The applicant must obtain a letter from appropriate landfill authorities showing approval to dispose of trash at the landfill.

14. Stipulation - 2-19-82-14MR (UMC 817.89)

Is the area where the oil and etc., stored in tanks covered by the application's SSCP plan?

15. Stipulation - 2-19-82-15MR (UMC 817.99)

Should a slide occur within the permit area, the applicant would be required to notify the Division and comply with any remedial measures required by the Division.

16. Stipulation - 2-19-82-16MR (UMC 817.131)

The applicant must address Section 817.131 and comply with this regulation should temporary abandonment of the Crandall Canyon facility be initiated.

17. Stipulation - 2-19-82-17MR (UMC 817.150-.176)

The applicant must submit a letter from the Utah Division of Transportation stating their approval of plans for the new intersection at Utah State Route 6 and the Crandall Canyon access road.

18. OSM Stipulation - 4-23-82-18 (UMC 817.71-.74)

Within 90 days of acceptance of the Administrator's approval, the Price River Coal Company shall submit to the regulatory authority for their approval, a plan for placement of excavated shaft material (waste rock). This plan must address location of excavated shaft material (both on and off the Crandall Canyon site), stability of placement (i.e., safety factor), final topography and its stability, chemical analysis of excavated material, and drainage control in accordance with UMC 817.71 through 817.74. No new surface disturbance shall take place until this plan has been submitted to and approved by the regulatory authority.

IV. Description of Existing Environment

The Crandall Canyon permit area is very narrow (about 300 feet at the widest point) and ranges in elevation from about 6,400 feet to 8,400 feet at the upper end of the canyon. The major types of vegetation are mixed mountain brush, Douglas fir/aspen forest and a riparian/canyon bottom complex.

An ephemeral stream is located in the bottom of the canyon, where the surface structures will be built. A spring is located approximately one mile below these planned facilities, and at this location, the stream classification changes to intermittent.

V. Description of Affected Environment

A. Hydrology

Approximately 3,000 feet of ephemeral stream will be diverted. During construction there will be increased sediment loads downstream and an unquantified loss of groundwater.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining has determined that PRCC has adequately sized the permanent diversion for the ephemeral Crandall stream channel. The slopes of the channel will be ripped as required

and contained between the canyon's natural stone facade and a man-made retaining wall in specific locations. PRCC plans to maintain and enhance the permanent diversion to simulate its natural form.

PRCC will use a sedimentation pond for topsoil storage runoff, an oil separator for facilities area runoff, and a septic system with a leach-field for waste water treatment.

Natural drainage from the surrounding watershed will be routed to the stream channel through a culvert system. The drainage ditches around the surface facilities area have been designed to safely convey a 25-year, 24-hour precipitation event.

If any aquifers are encountered during shaft development, the water will either be sealed off or collected and pumped to storage tanks for later use. Excessive amounts of water encountered from shaft development will be discharged in accordance with the State of Utah effluent limitations.

#### B. Soils

Three types of soils--entisols, inceptisols and mollisols--will be affected over an area of 28 acres. As a result of the interim approval given by OSM and UDOGM to initiate shaft construction (September, 1980), PRCC has removed and stockpiled the topsoil from the shaft site areas. Before construction begins in the surface support areas, the upper six (6) inches of unconsolidated growth medium (topsoil) will be removed and stored in designated locations. In areas where suitable topsoil exists in excess of six inches, a greater amount may be collected to provide resoiling material in areas where topsoil is unavailable. Topsoil stockpiles will be seeded and mulched for protection against erosion as they are to remain in place for a minimum of thirty (30) years. During final reclamation, disturbed areas will be graded to approximate original contours with topsoil being redistributed to a depth of about six (6) inches.

#### C. Vegetation

Construction of the facilities will result in a loss of 28 acres of three vegetation types. Twelve acres will be restored following abandonment of mining while the remaining sixteen acres will be permanently left as roads and stream diversions. The riparian/canyon bottom complex is located along a narrow band at the bottom of the canyon. This community consists of mixed conifers, narrowleaf cottonwood, scrub oak and maple. The Douglas fir/aspens forest community is generally located along the north-facing slopes of the canyon. Less than two acres of this conifer/aspens community will be affected. Dominant species in the "mixed mountain brush" community are pinyon pine, juniper and sagebrush. This community occurs on most of the south-facing slopes at lower elevations.

PRCC's revegetation effort will return the disturbed areas to pre-mining conditions and productivity at the facility site. In order to achieve this result, seed mixes to be used for reclamation are adapted to the area and are compatible with the post-mining land use.

D. Fish and Wildlife Resources:

The wildlife habitat that existed at the facilities area will be lost and replaced at the time of mine abandonment. Crandall Canyon is located in the Wasatch Plateau, which provides habitat for the following important game and non-game species: mule deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear, blue grouse, cottontail rabbits, golden eagles and mourning doves. The permit area is located in high priority habitat for mountain lion and black bear. No known threatened or endangered species have been found in the canyon. The power transmission line to the Crandall Canyon facilities was constructed according to approved design criteria for the protection of raptors. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has not identified any impacts to raptor nest sites from the proposed action.

E. Cultural Resources

Crandall Canyon has been inventoried for cultural resources. Several historic sites were located by the survey. They were recommended as not meeting any of the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This recommendation has received concurrence from the Utah Historic Preservation Officer.

F. Socioeconomics:

The Crandall Canyon facilities will provide increased ventilation capability and more convenient access to the underground workings by miners. This would not result in any increase in work force, but would increase safety and efficiency in the mine. At a later date these shafts will be used as access for machinery to construct the underground conveyor system. This action will be addressed in an Environmental Assessment covering the entire Price River Complex.

G. Reclamation

The Crandall Canyon facility will remain active for a minimum of thirty (30) years. At that time, or when the facility is no longer needed, buildings will be disassembled, all paved surfaces will be broken up and discarded in the shafts, fill materials will be returned to the shaft, disturbed areas will be graded to original contour, stable drainageways will be established across disturbed areas, and stored topsoil will be replaced and seeded.

VI. Alternatives to the Approval of the Crandall Canyon Modification

Alternative Number 1: No action or disapproval of the modification

The disapproval or no action alternative would impede the safe and efficient recovery of coal from the existing #3 and #5 mines. Primarily, the shafts are urgently required to provide improvement in mine ventilation and to reduce the underground transportation time for men and materials.

Alternative Number 2: Approval of the Modification under the Price River Complex Mining and Reclamation Plan review process.

Because of the greater length of time required for approval of Alternative #2, the construction of the necessary facilities described in Alternative #1 would be delayed for at least one year. It is considered unlikely that mining could continue for a year or more without improvement in the present conditions.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The Technical Analysis (TA) and Environmental Assessment (EA) preceding the FONSI identify certain environmental impacts that would occur from the construction of the ventilation/access shafts and associated facilities at the Crandall Canyon Modification of the Price River Complex. The construction activities would in a limited sense affect groundwater, surface water, and wildlife habitat. These impacts have been addressed in the TA prepared by UDOGM and in the EA prepared by OSM.

Other impacts identified by OSM and UDOGM would be appropriately mitigated to reduce harm to the environment by the environmental protection measures specified in the mining plan.

The Crandall Canyon proposal was addressed in both the Uinta-Southwestern Utah Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (December, 1980) and the Central Utah Coal EIS prepared by the Geological Survey (December, 1978). Both EIS's concluded that no significant adverse impacts should result from the Crandall Canyon operations.

Based on the evaluation of impacts given in the TA and EA, we find that no significant impacts to the human environment would result from the construction. Therefore, an EIS is not required, and I am approving the proposed Crandall Canyon Modification for the Price River Complex.

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Allen D. Klein  
Administrator  
Western Technical Center

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Date