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Company PRICE RIVER MINE COMPLEX

Date Sent: MARCH 30, 1984

Explanation:

TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT.

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

PRICE RIVER MINE COMPLEX
TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT

Change in Recommended Decision

On March 1, 1984, following completion of the Price River Coal Complex (PRCC) technical and environmental assessment (TEA), OSM and UDOGM inspection and enforcement personnel completed an inspection at the PRCC which resulted in issuance of eight Notices of Violation (NOV's) and several pending ten-day notices. While a number of different sites within the proposed permit area are involved, a strong pattern of failure to adequately follow sediment-control procedures and maintain sediment-control systems has emerged. This demonstration of failure to follow prescribed sediment-control procedures has negated the premise put forward by the applicant as a basis for the regulatory authority's approval of alternative sediment-control techniques.

Specifically, NOV number 3 has been issued for ineffective sediment-control in several areas, including portions of Hardscrabble Canyon (Mine No. 3 portal area) for which the applicant has requested approval of alternative sediment-control techniques. The applicant was issued a NOV for failure to maintain adequate sediment control at the same location on November 3, 1983. As a result of these NOV citations, the regulatory authority has determined that construction of a sediment-control pond and associated structures at the No. 3 mine portal area in Hardscrabble Canyon is required as a basis for permit issuance. This alternative was considered in the TEA under alternatives (part 2) in the Surface Water Hydrology secton (page 18). The permit condition, number S-1, is found below.

The March 1, 1984 inspection also indicated that sediment-control ponds located in Sowbelly Gulch and Hardscrabble Canyon were designed using an inadequate precipitation amount. The analysis cited in the Surface Water Hydrology section of the TEA indicates that the total volume of the ponds in Sowbelly Gulch is barely adequate to contain the runoff from the ten-year, 24-hour event. The containment volume of the sediment-control ponds in Hardscrabble Canyon is also marginal. In all cases, the ponds are constructed as nondischarging evaporation cells and due to their marginal size may, in fact, overflow. The regulatory authority has determined that the applicant must construct emergency spillway structures to allow controlled discharge from the ponds in Sowbelly Gulch and Hardscrabble Canyon. The permit condition is found below, number S-2.

The March 1, 1984 inspection also indicated potential deficiencies in the design, construction, and operation of the clean water-holding pond (pond 25) and the clarifier (pond 8) overflow catchment basin, both of which are part of the coal-processing plant in the Castle Gate surface facilities area. The understanding and interpretation of the surface coal-mining activities made by the regulatory authority during the permit application review have been changed as a result of the inspection.

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With respect to pond 25, it is now apparent that the embankments may form an impoundment above the original ground level and the design is subject to review by the regulatory authority. Consequently, the applicant is required to provide designs and design criteria, as detailed in permit condition S-3, below.

The clarifier (pond 8) overflow catchment basin is now known to be in use as part of the disturbed area sediment-control system, in that the inspection results have shown that overland flow from adjacent areas enters the catchment basin in an uncontrolled manner. The regulatory authority has determined that the applicant shall submit plans and designs detailing the size and runoff contribution of the adjacent area as well as the size of the overflow catchment basin, with supporting calculations. In the interim, until the applicant is otherwise notified, the applicant shall not discharge from the clarifier (pond 8) into the catchment basin. The permit condition is found below, number S-4.

Abatement

The applicant has been put on an abatement schedule for the NOV's issued as a result of the March 1, 1984 inspection. As a condition of this permit, separate from permit conditions S-1 through S-4, the applicant shall comply with the abatement schedule. Failure to meet the schedule will result in the regulatory authority issuing a cessation order suspending the applicant's authority to operate. The permit condition is found below, number S-5.

PRCC Supplementary Permit Conditions

S-1. Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall submit to the regulatory authority, for review and approval, detailed plans for a sediment-control pond and associated structures at the Hardscrabble Canyon Mine No. 3 surface facilities area. Such plans shall include maps and designs with supporting assumptions and calculations for ponds, berms, ditches, and other structures which will effectively control sediment and runoff from the entire surface facilities area. The applicant shall begin construction of the sediment-control structures upon notification of approval, in accordance with any conditions of that approval.

S-2. Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall submit to the regulatory authority, for review and approval, plans for emergency spillway structures for all existing sediment-control ponds or pond systems in Sowbelly Gulch and Hardscrabble Canyon. Plans shall include maps and designs with supporting assumptions and calculations for each required emergency spillway structure. The applicant shall begin construction of the structures upon notification of approval, in accordance with any conditions of that approval.

S-3. Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall submit to the regulatory authority, for review and approval, as-built designs (including cross sections, maximum water level, and water inflow, outflow, and emergency outflow controls) with supporting operational information calculations. The applicant shall ensure that sufficient information is submitted to demonstrate the effectiveness of controls limiting the maximum level of water in the pond.

S-4. Within 30 days of permit approval, the applicant shall submit to the regulatory authority, for review and approval, an as-built map and designs (including cross sections) for the catchment basin adjacent to the clarifier (pond 8). The map shall detail, at an appropriate scale, the size and location of the area contributing overland flow to the catchment basin. The applicant shall include supporting assumptions and calculations detailing the maximum anticipated volume of water, sediment, and effluent from both the contributing adjacent area and the clarifier.

Pending review and a decision by the regulatory authority regarding the use of a catchment basin for both sediment control and clarifier effluent control, the applicant shall not discharge from the clarifier into the catchment basin.

S-5. The applicant shall strictly comply with the Notice of Violation abatement schedule developed by the regulatory authority. Failure to comply with the abatement schedule will result in the issuance of a cessation order suspending the applicant's authority to operate.