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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

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FEB 1 4 1984

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1984

Mr. Gene Nodine
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

**DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING**

Dear Mr. Nodine:

This letter will confirm the telephone conversation between Sid Vogopohl of BLM and Dave Maxwell of OSM on January 25 and 26 concerning the resolution of concerns and proposed permit conditions (stipulations) contained in BLM's letter of concurrence on August 22, 1983 for the Price River Mine Complex permit application package. Since the telephone conversation the applicant, Price River Coal Company, has provided commitments on items 2, 3, and 4 from the August 22, 1983 letter. (See attached February 1, 1984 letter from the applicant to OSM.)

Proposed Condition 1 concerning rights-of-way are addressed in the attached October 3, 1983 letter of concurrence from the BLM Utah State Office in Salt Lake City. The letter recommends that Price River Coal Company be allowed to begin mining under the Price River safety corridor as shown on maps contained in the mine plan. (See attachment.) OSM will ensure that rights-of-way and wildlife habitat are protected. For these reasons, we believe that no conditions are now necessary because of your earlier concerns.

Should you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter, please contact Dave Maxwell or Walter Swain at (303) 837-3806.

Sincerely yours,

Allen D. Klein
Administrator
Western Technical Center

Enclosures

cc: Sid Vogopohl - BLM (Price, UT)
Bob Hagen - OSM (Albuquerque, NM)
Susan Linner - UDOGM

PRICE RIVER COAL COMPANY

P.O. BOX 629 HELPER, UTAH 84526 (801) 472-3411

February 1, 1984

CERTIFIED RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certified No. 562123

Mr. Dave Maxwell
Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers
1020 - 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Re: Further Commitments

Dear Mr. Maxwell:

Price River Coal Company makes the following commitments in order to eliminate intended permit stipulations or conditions:

Proposed Condition No. 4

The applicant must submit a plan for regrading of rills and gullies that might develop once reclamation is complete. This plan must identify how often the site will be inspected to determine if this type of erosion has occurred and at what stage of rill and gully development the applicant intends to commence filling of the gullies. This plan must be submitted within 30 days of permit approval.

Price River Coal Company will inspect reclaimed sites at least four (4) times yearly. Should rills and gullies develop, which exceed 9" (as per 817.106) in depth, Price River Coal Company will regrade, re-topsoil, and seed the damaged areas. Other temporary methods of erosion control may be necessary, such as jute matting and straw dikes. These and other methods will be employed if needed.

Proposed Condition No. 5

Where golden eagle nests are found in the future, exploration will not occur within 0.5 miles of the nest when surface disturbances would be below or above the nest.

Proposed Condition No. 6

Exploration will not be allowed on deer or elk critical winter range during the period November 1 through May 15.

Proposed Condition No. 7

Where elk calving areas are identified in the future, exploration activities would not be allowed during the period June 1 through July 15.

Price River Coal Company does not anticipate any new surface disturbances at this time on BLM land. We do, however, commit to these considerations for wildlife protection.

Mr. Dave Maxwell, OSM
February 1, 1984
Page 2

An additional issue arose during the 1-20-84 Denver meeting; the concern with longwall under or near the Price Canyon Recreation Area (PCRA). All mine planning maps show longwalling to be planned within an angle of draw that could cause some subsidence to impact the PCRA.

Although we have included the PCRA in "areas to be protected" (Chapter II, p. 70, paragraph 2), our mining plans have always shown otherwise. We wish to delete discussion of the PCRA as a protected area.

Significant damage from subsidence is not anticipated. Any that may occur will be repaired by PRCC.

Also included are some updated mine maps for the 'D' and 'A' Seams as promised by Mr. Cook during our 1-20-84 meeting in Denver.

Should you have any further questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PRICE RIVER COAL COMPANY

R. L. Wiley
Rob L. Wiley
Environmental Engineer

RLW:jp

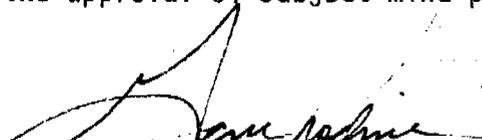
Enclosures

cc: K. Hutchinson
G. Cook

Plan did identify the entire lease area as elk critical winter range with the area identified as suitable for leasing subject to a protective stipulation. The below stipulation was placed on the lease agreement and would also be appropriate for a condition to mine plan approval for this particular lease area.

In order to protect deer and elk in their winter range, exploration, drilling and other surface operational activity will be allowed only during the period from May 15 to November 1. Exceptions to this limitation in any year may be specifically authorized in writing by the Authorized Officer through the Mining Director.

With the protection of the rights-of-way and wildlife habitat as outlined above, we grant our concurrence for the approval of subject mine plan.



District Manager



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UTAH STATE OFFICE
136 E. SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

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SL-029093
(U-921)
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WESTERN TECHNICAL CENTER

IN REPLY REFER TO

October 3, 1983

Memorandum

To: Utah Senior Project Manager, OSM, Denver
Attn: Mr. Dave Maxwell

Through: Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals #17

From: Deputy State Director, Mineral Resources

Subject: Price River Coal Company, Price River
Complex, Carbon County, Utah, Mining
and Reclamation Plan (MRP)

As stated in our letter dated July 29, 1983, the subject plan, now on file in this office, is adequate for our administration and is in compliance with the 30 CFR 211.10(b) rules, effective August 30, 1982. The plan is designed to achieve maximum economic recovery of the resource within the limits of the equipment and technology presently being used. We recommend approval of the underground mining plan part of the MRP plan permit application package (PAP).

Recently, Debby Richardson, consultant to OSM, Denver, contacted us and said she was concerned about the first mining of five seams of coal under the Price River corridor. If she had to approve the plan at this time she would only approve the issuance of a mining permit for the bottom seam (Sub-3).

In our review of the mine plan, we have determined that a corridor or safety zone has been designed to protect and minimize surface impacts along the Price River within which only limited mining will be approved. Parts of five minable seams will be first mined with pillars oriented to be superimposed in the vertical direction. Mining in the corridor will conform with typical entry and room and pillar systems that have been approved by the Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA) for the Price River Coal Company MRP plan. In all of these mining methods, more than 50 percent of the coal by area will be left as supporting pillars following first mining.

The BLM, Division of Mineral Resources are recommending, as stated in the first paragraph of this letter, that the Price River Coal Company be allowed to begin mining under the Price River safety corridor as shown on the maps included in the subject MRP plan. The operations will be field inspected by BLM, Division of Mineral Resources' mining personnel at least once on a quarterly basis. The inspections will involve discussions relative to the geologic and mining conditions being encountered and to the basic principals

of multiple seam mining, with particular emphasis in the Price River safety corridor. Should modifications be required, the BLM will be actively involved in all modifications or necessary changes that follow. All modifications or changes to the underground mining plan must be submitted to the BLM for approval. Approvals of any modifications will be based on sound basic engineering concepts and experienced expertise which will assure the integrity of the corridor. In our opinion, mining as described above will not have an impact on the surface or surface values in the Price River safety corridor.

Douglas H. Helman