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STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

ACT/007/004-88A
File # 3

Norman H. Bangertter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

February 24, 1988

Mr. Richard Allison
Project Supervisor
Castle Gate Coal Company
P. O. Box 449
Helper, Utah 84526

Dear Mr. Allison:

Re: Conditional Approval of PAP Amendment, Methane Degasification Well Drilling Proposal, Castle Gate Coal Corporation, Price River Mine Complex, ACT/007/004-88A, Folder No. 3, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has completed the review of Castle Gate Coal Company's (CGCC) methane degasification well drilling proposal, received February 1, 1988. The proposal was reviewed by technical reviewers, J. Randall Harden, Lynn Kunzler, Kent Wheeler, and James Leatherwood. The PAP amendment has been determined adequate for approval with conditions.

Please refer to the attached technical review memoranda for an explanation of the conditions which must be resolved prior to our issuance of final approval. Please provide your response to the conditions by March 19, 1988.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this permitting action. As always, please call should you have questions or need additional information pertaining to this review.

Sincerely,

D. Wayne Hedberg
Data Management Coordinator

jr

Attachments

cc: M. Bailey
L. Dalton
R. Hagen

D. Parker
P. Rutledge
B-Team

8992R/29

February 22, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Randy Harden, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Proposal for Installation of Degasification Wells, Castle Gate Coal Company, Price River Coal Complex, ACT/007/004-88A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Only one major engineering issue appears to be deficient in the applicant's proposal.

UMC 817.171 Roads: Class III: Location - JRH

In order to meet the requirements of this section, the operator must mark the location of the roads in the field prior to approval of the application. To meet these requirements, the Division must stipulate the approval as follows:

Condition - UMC 817.171 - (1) - JRH

Within thirty (30) days prior to construction of any Class III roads to be used in conjunction with coal degasification well sites, the operator shall clearly mark in the field, the location of the roads to be constructed, and shall notify the Division for approval of the location of the roads. No Class III road shall be constructed until such time as the Division has inspected and approved the location of the road in the field.

jr
cc: W. Hedberg
S. Linner
1384R/28

February 17, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist *ky*

RE: Degasification Well, Castle Gate Coal Company, Castle Gate Mine Complex, ACT/007/004, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Castle Gate Coal Company's proposed plan to drill degasification wells has been reviewed and found to be inadequate for approval. However, with the following conditions, the plan could be approved.

Condition UMC 817.97 - (1) - 1k

Castle Gate coal company shall not perform any construction or drilling activities within the critical big game winter range associated with the proposed site between November 1 and May 15, of any given year.

Condition UMC 784.13(b)(5)-(1)-1k

Castle Gate Coal Company should reduce the rate of seeding of mountain big sagebrush from 2 pounds/acre to .2 lbs/ac.

Discussion

The area of the proposed well is within an area designated as critical winter range for two species of big game, namely mule deer and elk. To adequately protect these animals while they occupy this range during crucial (winter) periods, the above condition for approval is needed. This condition is in concert with special condition #2 of the BLM which limits mine-related drilling activities (exploration) on critical big game winter ranges throughout the permit area.

The seeding rate for mountain big sagebrush is excessive and should be reduced to .2 lbs./ac. The reduced rate is expected to provide for the establishment of sufficient shrubs for the land use of the reclaimed site.

cc: S. Linner
D. Darby

1414R/8

February 5, 1988

TO: File

FROM: James Leatherwood, Reclamation Soils Specialist 

RE: Methane Degasification Well Drilling Proposal, Castle Gate Coal Company, Price River Complex, ACT/007/004-88A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

The above reference submittal has been reviewed. The following condition must be addressed.

Condition UMC 817.23 - (1) -JSL

Castel Gate must identify the protection measures that will be implemented to protect the topsoil stockpile. The Division recommends the use of a silt fence.

djh
cc: S. Linner
D. Darby
1342R/31