0017

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

February 19, 2008

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor
Dana Dean, Team Lead

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Team Lead

RE: North Lease Incidental Boundary Change, Canyon Fuel Company LLC, Skyline Mine, Permit C/007/0005 and Task ID #2918

SUMMARY:

On June 20, 2007, the Division received an application for the Skyline Mine to expand the permit area by 680 acres. The Permittee wants to increase the permit area to allow for changes in the longwall panels and to be able to mine some blocks of coal by room and pillar methods. The Permittee will not increase any surface disturbance in conjunction the permit expansion.

On October 30, 2007, the Division received additional information for the North Lease Incidental Boundary Change. In response to Task 2813, the Permittee supplied information to correct the deficiencies that the Division found in the June 20, 2007 application. This memo deals with the engineering aspects.

On January 31, 2008, the Division received additional information.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

PERMIT AREA

Regulatory Requirements: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-521.

Analysis:

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. In Section 114 of the MRP, the Permittee updated permit area and total acreage.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Permit Area Boundary Maps

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. They showed the updated permit boundaries on several maps including Drawing 1.6-3, Skyline Mines Permit Area.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee described that they want to add 680 acres due to changes in the longwall configuration and to mine additional coal with room-and-pillar methods.

The Permittee will not cause any new surface disturbance or increase the area of proposed subsidence.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

COAL RECOVERY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 817.59; R645-301-522.

Analysis:

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee will increase the amount of recoverable coal by including the fee area. In the future, the Permittee may have to change the R2P2 because of changes to mining in federal coal.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Renewable Resources Survey

The Permittee met the requirements of this section by showing the renewable resources on various maps within the MRP.

Subsidence Control Plan

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee states that subsidence will not occur within the 680 acre IBC boundary. Therefore, the current subsidence plan is adequate.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Affected Area Maps

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee included several maps in the application that show the permit and affected areas. Such maps include Drawing 1.6-3, Skyline Mines Permit Area.

Mine Workings Maps

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. Drawing 2.2.7-7, Abandoned Adjacent Workings, shows the location of the Winter Quarters Mine and the Trespass Mine as well as the Skyline Mine workings.

Certification Requirements

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee had Drawing 2.2.7-7, Abandoned Adjacent Workings, certified by a licensed professional engineer.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

Analysis:

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. The Permittee will not cause any new surface disturbance with the addition of the 680 acres. Therefore, the Permittee does not have to modify the existing reclamation plan.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

General

The Permittee met the requirements of this section. Since the Permittee will not be doing any new surface disturbance in association with the 680 acre IBC the amount needed to insure reclamation in the event of a bond forfeiture.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the application.

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