



File ACT 1007/006 #2

April 27, 1992

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APR 28 1992

Mr. Lowell Braxton
 Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
 355 West North Temple
 3 Triad Center, Suite 350
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

DIVISION OF
 OIL GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Braxton,

Re: Application For Permit Change - Incidental Boundary Change 92-1

Thank you for your help in finding possible solutions to the current concerns over the safety of our underground employees. The safety of our workforce is of prime concern to the management at CPMC and at Cyprus Coal Corporation.

As has been explained to you by the author and by Cyprus Coal Corporation management, the mining operations on the far side of the graben crossing have created a dilemma for our workers. The graben crossing is the only escape route in the event of a mine disaster, there is no way feasible to create an opening to the surface in the U-13097 lease.

To provide an escapeway for the workers, we are proposing to drive main entries northward into federal lease UTU-64263 where there is outcrop. This set of mains will terminate at a breakout we are calling the Little Park Canyon Fan Site. A ventilation fan may be constructed at the site along with three portals.

Since the UTU-64263 lease has not been permitted, an incidental boundary change is required. This letter and attached documentation serve as the application for permit change.

Regulation R645-303-220 allows for permit changes. Regulation R645-303-222 allows for incidental boundary changes as permit amendments if the area meets the following criteria:

- 1- The incidental boundary change area is less than 15% of the surface or subsurface disturbed area.
- 2- The incidental boundary change area is in the same cumulative impact area as defined in the Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment area.
- 3- The incidental boundary change area is in the same hydrologic basin authorized by the current permit.

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In all three cases, the proposed incidental boundary change (IBC) area meets the test:

- 1- The area of the proposed change is 61 acres; the total mined area to date including surface disturbance is 3,424 acres (3251 mine workings + 173 surface disturbance). The proposed change area equals 1.8% of the total disturbed area. Even when added to two previous incidental boundary changes totaling 15.59 acres, the total disturbed acreage is 76.59 acres or 2.24% of the total disturbed acres (76.59/3,424).
- 2- A new Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment has not been made for the addition of the UTU-64263 lease, however, the proposed IBC is within the previous CHIA prepared for our 1987 permit renewal.

Figure 2 from the 1987 CHIA has been copied and the proposed IBC has been plotted in relationship to the CHIA boundary. As can be seen, the IBC is well within the CHIA boundary.

Figure 4 from the 1987 CHIA has been copied and the ground water surface elevations plotted based on the results from four new monitoring wells constructed in the mine. As can be seen, the water surface in the horst (the minable area) between the Bear Canyon Graben and the Trail Canyon Fault is oriented to the southeast just as the CHIA water surface predicted. The new water surface elevations have been colored on the map for clarity. The water surface elevation from our recent 1992 permit renewal application has been plotted on Figure 4 east of the Bear Canyon Graben. As can be seen, the new elevations in the horst match very closely with the elevations east of the Bear Canyon Graben. Even though the CHIA water surface elevations do not match ours, it is significant that the general orientation is the same, to the southeast. The CHIA needs to be updated with the latest information.

The significance of the above discussion is that the proposed IBC area as shown on Figure 4 is in the CHIA area, and that when compared with Map 624.110Ws, Wattis Structure, in our MRP, the water table in the IBC area is at least 200 feet below the Wattis coal seam, the only seam minable in the area. Impacts to the water table in the IBC area will be minimal.

- 3- Figure 5 from the 1987 CHIA has been copied and the IBC area added. As can be seen on the enclosed copy, the IBC area is well within sub-drainage 4 of the Gentry Ridge Basin as identified in the CHIA. The IBC area therefore is in the same

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hydrologic basin authorized by the CHIA, and the current permit.

As can be seen on Figure 5, there has been underground mining in sub-drainage 4 of the Gentry Ridge Basin. The mining area has been plotted and is colored for clarity. Significant mining has occurred east of the colored area but is not shown as it is of no importance to this submittal. Mining for the IBC will therefore be in the same hydrologic basin as contained in the 1987 CHIA.

Map 116.100c from our MRP has been revised to show the IBC area. Note that the map shows the IBC in the area previously mapped as "Not Minable" since the UTU-64263 lease has not been permitted. The rest of lease UTU-64263 is still designated as "Not minable".

By allowing the IBC area to be mined, we can install in-mine water monitoring wells similar to those recently installed to identify the water table. These wells can be used to locate the water surface elevation and to obtain water quality samples. If we are not allowed the IBC, we may be forced to drill and install one or more wells from the surface. Surface wells, as you know, are much deeper, much more costly and are harder to obtain information from; in-mine wells are much more useful as data collection points. Additionally, surface disturbance can be reduced by not having surface drill sites.

Five entries are planned for the IBC area. At the west end of the entries, a breakout area is planned at the outcrop for personnel escape and ventilation. A fan is planned at this time, but there is a possibility it may not be required. Detailed ventilation studies are currently being conducted to evaluate the need for the fan. For economic and environmental reasons, if a fan is not necessary, we will not construct one. The breakouts will, in any event, provide a valuable escapeway for personnel and for intake air for ventilation using our existing Corner Canyon fan. Details of the breakouts are shown on Map 542.200i in our MRP.

At this time, we have only shown the IBC on Map 116.100c, Mine Plan, Wattis Seam, if other maps need to show the IBC let me know and we can add it. Since the full permit for lease UTU-64263 may be approved soon, there should be little reason to revise other maps.

The IBC area is within the boundaries of federal lease UTU-64263 which was covered by an Environmental Assessment during the leasing procedures, therefore no new federal action should be required. The Forest Service obviously must give concurrence for the breakout.

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Eight copies of the above mentioned maps are enclosed for your use, if you need more let me know.

The safety issue is of great concern to CPMC and Cyprus management; since development of the entries will take a considerable length of time, it is very importance to us to receive approval of the IBC as soon as possible. Thank you again for your help, for Dianne's help and for the help of all the employees at the Division in this regard.

Respectfully,



Ben Grimes
Sr. Environmental Engineer

Enclosures

File: ENV 4-11
Chrono: BG920407