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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 23, 1993

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Jess Kelley, Reclamation Engineer *JK*

RE: Amendment to Allow Incidental Boundary Change (IBC), Federal Lease UTU-64263, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006-93A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

The permittee has developed a mining plan for Federal Lease UTU-64263. The permittee had planned to mine exclusively within the present permit boundary, but that plan would have left in place, unmined and unretrievable, approximately 864,000 tons of Federal coal. Therefore, under the supervision of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the permittee has developed a mining plan which provides for the mining of this coal. Since the new mining plan extends the bounds of anticipated mining outside the present permit boundary, the permittee has applied for an Incidental Boundary Change (IBC).

The permittee first submitted an application for the IBC on January 12, 1993. The Division rejected that application because it would have allowed for mining too close to the channel of the Wild Cattle Hollow stream, which is a perennial stream. The Division determined that the potential for subsidence damage to the stream channel was too great. In the second submittal, which was made on February 16, 1993, the permittee moved the bounds of anticipated mining back some distance from the Wild Cattle Hollow stream. This memorandum constitutes this writer's review and approval of the February 16, 1993 submittal.

ANALYSIS

The February 16, 1993 submittal consists of an explanatory letter and several plates which have been modified to show the proposed IBC. Also included in the submittal are a revised subsidence monitoring plan and two graphs of previously-gathered subsidence data, from which the permittee has determined the maximum angle of draw for this site.

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The IBC includes 60 acres of additional surface area and 27.5 acres of additional coal. The surface acreage is U.S. Forest Service land and the coal is contained in Federal Lease UTU-64263, which is administered by the BLM. Applications for including the additional area as part of the present mining operation are being processed by both of these agencies.

The area of the IBC constitutes only 0.74% of the total disturbed area. When the area of the IBC is added to those of previous IBCs, the total constitutes only about 2.82% of the total disturbance. This is less than the 15% limit for IBCs set forth in R645-303-224.100.

The permittee has used an angle of draw of 26° in determining the extent of potential subsidence effects. This angle of draw was determined from subsidence data gathered previously at this mine (see Figures 11 and 12) and is the greatest angle of draw encountered.

Using the 26° angle of draw, the permittee has planned the placement of mining panels in such a way as to avoid subsidence damage to the channel of the Wild Cattle Hollow stream. It was for this reason that, in the present submittal, the permittee has moved most of the planned panels farther from the stream channel than was originally planned in the January 12, 1993 submittal. As an additional precaution against damaging the stream channel, the permittee has committed to observe the area west of mined-out panels 18 through 22 during the Spring of 1993 for subsidence damage. If subsidence damage is evident, which is representative of damage which might occur to the stream channel in the IBC, then the mining panels in the IBC will be moved still farther from the stream in order to protect it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Division approve the IBC as it is represented in the February 16, 1993 submittal.

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