

0038



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

January 28, 1999

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor, Compliance *Joh*

From: Wm. J. Malencik, Reclamation Specialist *WJM* *Revision of Submission Dated 1/21/99 re, last p*

RE: Mining Coal Mine Waste (Refuse Pile) and Transporting to Willow Creek Mine for Reprocessing, Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation, Star Point Mine, ACT/007/006-99A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Extracting coal from Star Point refuse pile and storage of the processing waste at Willow Creek and later at Star Point.

Summary

Whether or not this proposal requires a permit over and above the current underground permit is a matter for management decision. This position is taken because of the record is not clear how this should be handled from a permitting viewpoint.

The permittee amendment addresses engineering. This is the only change to the current approved mining and reclamation plan. The change includes (1) requesting authorization to mine the Star Point refuse pile, (2) permanent storage of the coal processing waste at the Willow Creek refuse permitted site, and (3) upgrading the Star Point wash plant, and thereafter, storing the coal processing waste at the Star Point Mine.

The MRP amendment does not involve soils, biology, air and land use, nor hydrology. The amendment does involve engineering from operational and reclamation stages.

References:

- Soils R645-301-200
- Biology R645-301-300
- Land Use . . . R645-301-410
- Hydrology . . R645-301-700

Analysis

The foregoing are not applicable to the instant amendment because the amendment does not involve soils--no soils will be harvested, it all lies within the disturbed area, nor will the operational stage involve top soiling; as related to biology, the disturbed areas are in an active operational area and the current plan does not require re-vegetation until the reclamation stage, with respect to hydrology, drainage systems and method of treatment remains unchanged.

Finding

The current approved MRP adequately protects the environment with respect to soils, biology, land use, and hydrology.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

Reference: R645-400-351. Permitting.

Analysis

The applicant proposes to extract coal from the Star Point refuse pile, process it through the wash plant, and deposit the refuse in the permitted refuse pile and sell the coal.

All mining will be done at the Star Point Mine. The processing refuse disposition and coal sale will involve a two stage operation.

Stage #1: Coal will be processed at Willow Creek, refuse permanently stored at Willow Creek, and coal sold at Willow Creek.

Stage #2: When the Star Point wash plant is upgraded, the entire operation will be centralized at the Star Point Mine.

Finding

No finding is made on the matter, if a surface mining permit is required or if the current underground permit is only the only authorization needed. It is a management determination because of the actions take to date.

Mining Refuse Pile/Transport to Willow Creek
ACT/007/006-99A
January 28, 1999
Page 3

Reference: R645-301-420. Air Quality.

Analysis

The applicant proposes to mine the refuse pile with equipment currently on the mine site. This equipment is listed in DEQ approved Air Quality Order. Therefore, unless portable crushers, etc. are planned, the current authorizations are considered adequate.

Finding

The permittee's operation meets the requirement set forth in the Air Quality Order.

Reference: R645-301-521. Mining Coal and Mining Coal from Waste Piles and Drilling Refuse Pile to Aide in Mining IE., Coal Quality.

Analysis

The applicant proposes to mine coal from the Star Point Waste Pile (Refuse Pile). The mining will start in the SE corner of the refuse pile, and thence, mine in a northerly and westerly direction. Slopes created as a result of mining will not exceed 2:1 and grading of the mining area will maintain positive drainage in order to prevent water from impounding on the mining area.

Also, a drilling plan is depicted on the attached to determine coal quality.

Existing haul roads and public roads will be utilized on the transportation of refuse to Willow Creek. When the operation is centralized at Star Point only haul roads will be needed. This amendment proposes to obtain information on coal quality. See Figure 523a.

Finding

The mine must keep records maintained daily on the amount of refuse transported, the amount of coal processed, and the amount of coal sold.

The proposed mining is approved as described above.

Roads must be maintained per UCR performance standards.

Reference: R645-301-528. Design Refuse Pile.

Analysis

The refuse pile is currently covered by an approved design. The applicant has committed in the current plan to meet refuse pile performance standards. Also, the MSHA standards will be complied with including the axial height berm on the exterior of the refuse pile. The reprocessed waste from Star Point will be placed in the void areas created by mining within the boundaries of the refuse pile.

Finding

The current refuse pile standards and designs are adequate. Lower quality coal may be isolated and temporarily placed on the active waste rock pile.

Reference: R645-301-330. Noncoal Waste.

Analysis

Noncoal waste uncovered in mining the pre-SMCRA pile will be temporarily stored on the approved permitted area and taken to a land fill.

Finding

The applicant has committed to the proper storage of noncoal waste.

RECLAMATION PLAN

Reference: R645-301-540. Engineering Reclamation.

Analysis

The current 1998 reclamation updated plan adequately covers the reclamation of mined refuse pile. It should be noted that the only change to the pile will not be the surface areas, but the height of the pile will be reduced as mining progresses. It is estimated the pile will recover 40% coal; the balance will be processing waste.

The vegetal study area and results clearly show that the refuse pile can be reclaimed. The formal study is part of the MRP.

Finding

The 1998 approved reclamation plan adequately covered reclamation requirements.

Reference: R645-301-800. Bonding.

Analysis

As related to bonding the permittee is not requesting a reduction in the bond.

Finding

The permittee is not requesting a bond reduction. Therefore, since the bond was updated in 1998, the bond is determined to be adequate, since the scope of reclamation is reduced.

Recommendations

- I have reviewed the application; analyzed it, as the enclosed analysis record shows, to determine if it meets the Utah Coal Rules and have made findings that it did with one exception.
- The exception mentioned above concerns the matter of (1) whether or not this proposed mining activity can be authorized under an existing underground mining permit, or (2) whether or not this proposed mining activity must be authorized under a surface mining permit. The action is taken since some existing permits do not clearly point out what is the correct approach.
- Recommend when this amendment is approved you advise Mr. Pappas what is required from Willow Creek before this total project can become fully operational.