



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

0017

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October 5, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *W#W*

RE: Response to Hiawatha Division Order, Hiawatha Coal Company, Hiawatha Mine, ACT/007/011-DO97A, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

INTRODUCTION

On August 21, 1998 the Division received the response from the Permittee to Division Order 97A. The Division reviewed the document and found that some of the responses were inadequate. The Division also found conditions at the site have changed since the division order was issued and that some parts of the division order are no longer relevant.

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

Type and Method of Mining Operations

Under Division Order 97A the Permittee was required to give the Division plans for future mining operations. At the time the division order was issued the Permittee was reclaiming most of the facilities and moth balling the rest. The Permittee claimed that while they no longer intended to mine they were in the process of marketing the property of someone that might reopen the mines. The Division wanted to know the Permittee operational plan. After the Division Order 97A was issued, the permit was transferred to HCC, who want to reopen the mines. On Page 12 of Chapter 5 of the MRP the Permittee states:

HCC intends to reopen the King V and VI portals by November 1, 1999. Until that time HCC intends to:

1. sell pond fines
2. maintain the hydrologic structures and controls

3. monitor and inspect the property as required by the permit
4. reclaim those portions of the disturbed area that HCC feels is both unnecessary for and would not be affected by the resumption of underground mining operations

The Division considers the mining schedule submitted by HCC adequate.

Facilities and Structures

In Division Order 97A the Permittee was required to update the MRP regarding the use, maintenance and demolition of mine structures. The Division wanted to know what structures would be demolished and what structures would be left for the post mining land use. After the division order was issued, the permit was transformed. The new Permittee wants to reopen the mine. The new Permittee will determine what facilities are needed future mining operations. The Permittee gave the Division lists of the facilities and structures that are in South Fork, Middle Fork and the Processing Plant area. The Division considers those lists adequate.

In Division Order 97A the Permittee was required to update the MRP regarding the use and maintenance of coal waste, refuse and impoundment structures. They must also explain the coal storage, loading, hauling, handling and the associated haul roads located within the railroad right-of-way.

In a letter dated May 13, 1998 from Daron Haddock to Elliot Finley, the Division states that the railroad right-of-way and the associated haul road will not be included as part of the permit area. Therefore, the Permittee does not need to give the Division any additional information.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-732.

Analysis:

Road Systems

In Division Order 97A the Division required the Permittee to either reclaim the North Fork road or classify it as a primary road. On Page 34 of Chapter 5 the Permittee states that the North Fork road has been classified as a primary road. Since the North Fork road is a primary road, it does not have to be reclaimed.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.

SPOIL AND WASTE MATERIALS

Regulatory Reference: R645-100-200, -301-210, -301-211, -301-212, -301-412, -301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-521, -301-526, -301-528, -301-535, -301-536, -301-542, -301-553, -301-745, -301-746, -301-747.

Analysis:

Coal mine waste.

The Division is concerned about the miscellaneous coal and coal waste materials in and around the disturbed area. In Division Order 97A the Permittee was required to develop a plan to clean up and properly place all miscellaneous coal and coal waste in approved locations.

The Permittee response is given on Page 57 of Chapter 5. The response is as follows:

The coal waste in the Upper Rail Storage Yard will be reclaimed as described in R645-301-241, by placing all of the material against the toe of the south cut slope. A minimum of 24" of in situ soil will then be placed over it. The rail tracks will be cleaned of coal and coal waste material following removal of the tracks. The material will be hauled to Slurry Pond "1".

There are several small coal waste piles adjacent to the Lower Preparation plant. This material will be removed prior to regrading, and will be incorporated into slurry pond "1".

The Permittee's plan to manage the small piles of coal and coal waste is a reclamation plan. The Division needs the Permittee to give the Division an operation plan for the handling of all coal and coal mine waste on or near the site. The operation plan is needed because:

- R645-301-521.164 states that the location of each coal storage area will be shown on a map. None of the maps in the MRP show all the coal storage sites within the disturbed area.
- R645-301-521.190 allows the Division to require the Permittee to supply other

relevant information. The Division considers a narrative on how the coal storage piles will be managed during the operational phase relevant information.

- Under R645-301-536 the Permittee is required to give the Division designs for all coal mine waste disposal areas. The Permittee must either place all coal mine waste in an approved storage site or submit designs for each coal mine waste storage site.

The Division does not want to dictate where or how many coal storage and coal mine waste sites can be located. The Division does want all coal and coal mine waste to be stored in approved locations. One way for the Permittee to comply is to place all coal in active coal storage sites and to place all coal mine waste in approved sites.

Findings:

Information provided in the response to Division Order 97A for identifying and providing a plan to clean up and properly place all miscellaneous coal and coal waste material in approved locations is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the Permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-521, The Permittee must show the location of all coal storage sites in and around the disturbed area boundaries on the operations maps. The Permittee must also describe each coal storage site in the MRP.

R645-301-536, The Permittee must place all coal mine waste in approved disposal facilities.

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 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:

In Division Order 97A the Division required the Permittee to provide a detailed timetable for the completion of each major step of reclamation, including but not limited to, a description of the removal of equipment, demolition of structures, backfilling and grading of all disturbed areas. This may require adding to or modifying Table III-9 or another such table to include Slurry Pond 5A and the South Fork facilities.

The Permittee responded by giving the Division Table V-7, Reclamation Timetable. The Division was told by the Permittee that no coal mining would occur in North Fork Canyon. Reclamation (reseed) for the North Fork Canyon is scheduled for the second year after total reclamation begins. Since no mining or reclamation activities are scheduled for North Fork Canyon the Division does not understand why that area cannot be reclaimed. Therefore, the Division does not accept the reclamation timetable with regard to North Fork Canyon.

Findings:

Information provided in the response to Division Order 97A for giving the Division a detailed reclamation timetable is inadequate. Prior to approval, the Permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-542.100, The Permittee must provide the Division with a detailed reclamation timetable for the North Fork Canyon.

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BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-800.

Analysis:

Determination of bond amount.

In Division Order 97A the Permittee was required to include the reclamation costs for reclaiming the railroad load out area and the associated haul road. In a letter from Mr. Daron Haddock to Mr. Elliot Finley date May 13, 1998 the Division stated that the railroad load out will not be required to be part of the permit area and that no bond will be required for that area.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section.