

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

January 25, 2005

TO: Internal File

THRU: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor

THRU: Joseph C. Helfrich, Team Lead

FROM: David Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist.

RE: Midterm Permit Review, Hiawatha Coal Company, Hiawatha Mine, C/007/0011, Task ID#2066

SUMMARY:

Hiawatha Coal Company was notified on November 18, 2004 that the Division would conduct a midterm review of the Hiawatha Mine and Mining and Reclamation Plan. This Technical Memorandum evaluates Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the notification letter with regard to geology and hydrology. The following information was checked:

1. The MRP to ensure that the Plan has been updated to reflect changes in the Utah Coal Regulatory Program, which have occurred subsequent to permit approval.
2. Make sure Division Orders and permittee initiated plan changes are appropriately incorporated into the plan document.
3. A review of the applicable portions of the permit to ensure that the plan contains commitments for application of the best technology currently available (BTCA) to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flows outside of the permit area.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

PERMIT APPLICATION FORMAT AND CONTENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 777.11; R645-301-120.

Analysis:

The Hiawatha Mine has been idle since April 1993. Coal production is limited to coal fine recovery from Slurry Pond #1. The mine permit was transferred from US Fuels Company to Hiawatha Coal Company (HCC) on December 12, 1997. The Division reissued the 5-year mine permit to HCC on March 14, 2002.

Hiawatha Coal Company (HCC) made several major changes to the Engineering and Hydrology Sections of the MRP between May 2002 and May 2003. The Division evaluated the new information to ensure it was sufficient to address the requirements of a Division Order and meet the requirements of the regulations. All sections were incorporated into the MRP on June 6, 2003.

The changes were the result of a Division Order issued on May 1, 2002 by Lowell P. Braxton, Director of the DOGM in response to the Informal Conference held on April 11, 2002. The Order found that issues expressed by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company, pertaining to the operational status of HCC's Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP), had merit to initiate an update of the MRP to conformed to the Utah Coal Regulatory Rules. HCC and the DOGM Coal Program were directed to conduct a process to produce an approved, amended permit including the Probable Hydrologic Consequence (PHC) Document, CHIA, Chapter 7 and other relevant parts of the permit.

The new information submitted by the permittee included an updated Probable Hydrologic Consequence determination maps that identified the separate mines, mine inflow, the attitude (strike and dip) of the coal seams for each mine and the past and future mining areas. HCC has been monitoring springs, streams and UPDES sites at the mine, and entering the data into the DOGM Coal database.

The Division has updated the CHIA for the Gentry Mountain area to reflect the new information submitted by HCC on September 24, 2004. The Mining and Reclamation Plan is current and in compliance with the coal mining regulations. The data and information available

indicates that there are no impacts to state appropriated water resources, nor offsite impacts from the Hiawatha Mine. There is no evidence that mining has impacted Big Bear Spring.

Hiawatha Coal Company intends to mine in the future and plans to continue to monitor hydrologic resources including age dating in-mine flows. Two UPDES sites are permitted and monitored. Pond sites were taken out of commission by the Division of water quality. HCC recently reapplied to get all the sedimentation ponds paced back in commission to monitor UPDES sites. Mine water production is monitored at Mohrland UPDES site.

The permittee is using BTCA to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flows outside of the permit area. Hydrologic structures (culverts, berms, sedimentation ponds and surface roughening of reclaimed areas) route or contain disturbed surface runoff so it does not contaminate down stream sources.

Findings:

The hydrology issues expressed in Sections 2,3 and 4 of the Midterm notification letter of November 18, 2004 have been incorporated and addressed in the MRP by the permittee. There are no further requirements of the permittee at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the geology and hydrology parts of the Midterm permit review be approved.