

August 14, 2003

TO: Internal File

THRU: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III, Soils/Team Lead

FROM: Karl R. Houskeeper, Environmental Scientist III

RE: Post Mining Land Use Change, UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine, C/007/0013, Task ID # 1630

SUMMARY:

The Division received an application on July 11, 2003 from UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. to change the post mining land use for portions of the disturbed area. The proposed post mining land use change will affect the remaining disturbed areas that have not been reclaimed as follows:

#2 Sediment Pond	1.44 Acres
Building and Pad Area	10.80 Acres
Fan and Manway Portal Pads	2.83 Acres
Powder and Cap Magazine Area	0.57 Acres
<u>Water Tank Area</u>	<u>0.54 Acres</u>
Total Proposed Area	16.18 Acres

The application request that the post mining land use change from wildlife habitat to residential/recreational. The Center for Mine Land Redevelopment and or the College of Eastern Utah have evaluated the proposed area and indicated the desire to acquire the property for use as a science field camp for Utah Universities. The camp would be located where students and researchers can live and study a variety of subjects, including geology, ecology, botany and other natural sciences.

TECHNICAL MEMO

RECLAMATION PLAN

POSTMINING LAND USES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

Analysis:

The application requests that the post mining land use change from wildlife habitat to residential/recreational for 16.18 acres of land. The application contains information indicating an interest by the Center for Mine Land Redevelopment and or the College of Eastern Utah for use as a science camp. A detailed evaluation of the area and structures has been conducted by the College and is contained in the application.

Findings:

Information submitted in the application indicates that the area can support the post mining land use of residential/recreational and that there is a reasonable likelihood for achievement of the post mining land use change. The residential/recreational change is a higher or better use and still identifies areas that will benefit the wildlife habitat.

APPROXIMATE ORIGINAL CONTOUR RESTORATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 785.16, 817.102, 817.107, 817.133; R645-301-234, -301-412, -301-413, -301-512, -301-531, -301-533, -301-553, -301-536, -301-542, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-764.

Analysis:

The application indicates that the main intake portal (south) or man way portal and the fan portal will have portions of the concrete portal collar removed. This concrete is to be hauled off site to an approved landfill. The fan portal also requires the removal of the temporary metal fan housing, which may be salvaged. The remaining concrete will be covered with a minimum of 3' of cover material. Both portals have been permanently sealed and backfilled.

A review of the approved MRP shows that no pre-mining contours are available do to the age of the mine site (approximately the 1940's). No comparison of pre mining and post mining contours can be made. During a site visit on March 26, 2003 by Division Personnel the portal area was viewed. It was the consensus of Division Personnel that once the concrete and metal

are removed and the remaining concrete is covered with 3' of cover material that the area will reflect the surrounding terrain and slopes in accordance with the regulations for approximate original contour. This evaluation was also compared with information contained in Directive Number: Tech-002, effective July 1, 1977. This comparison was done during the review of this application and conforms to the intent of the Directive.

Findings:

The application does not specify where the 3' of cover material will be obtained, however conversations with the operator indicate that the cover material will come from the pad area adjacent to the portals. The cover material resource area needs to be identified in the application with an approximate volume.

Exhibit A-3 is a plate that depicts the portal area. This exhibit is contained in Appendix X-4 of the application. Exhibit A-3 has the contour lines identified in 10' increments with intermittent 2' increments shown in specific areas. Contour lines contained on Exhibit A-3 currently do not depict the fill material against the portals. In addition contour 6340 needs to be revised to depict the pad area and not a slope.

R645-301-553 - The backfilling and grading plan to cover the remaining concrete liner with 3' of cover material needs to be described in the application, specifically where the material is coming from and final surface configuration. Vegetation or stabilization methods of fill needs to be identified.

R645-301-542.200 – The anticipated final surface configuration needs to be shown on Exhibit A-3 for the portal area.

R645-301-512 – The maps in the application are P.E. stamped, but also require a signature and date.

MINE OPENINGS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.13, 817.14, 817.15; R645-301-513, -301-529, -301-551, -301-631, -301-748, -301-765, -301-748.

Analysis:

The main intake portal (south) or man way portal and the fan portal have been permanently sealed and backfilled. The portal collars remained for future access to the old workings.

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Findings:

The portals have been sealed backfilled and abandoned in accordance with MSHA regulations. The operator has determined that future access to the mine through these portals is no longer feasible. The proposed post mining land use change will totally abandon these portals from future access.

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-100-200, -301-513, -301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-537, -301-732.

Analysis:

Retention

The application indicates the retention of the buildings and the public road that parallels the buildings. Page X-16 of the approved MRP indicates that this public road will be retained during mining and reclamation periods. Page X-16 has been revised in the application to give more detail of the public road course and to indicate the alternative post mining land use of residential/recreational. The post mining land use application will be located in Appendix X-4 upon approval.

Findings:

Retention of the public road that parallels the existing buildings is already approved in the MRP. Retention of the road correlates with the proposed alternative post mining land use of residential/recreational.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Information submitted in the application shows the post mining land use change from wildlife habitat to residential/recreation is a better and higher use and that there is a reasonable likelihood for achievement.

There are several deficiencies that need to be addressed before this application can be approved. It is recommended that this application be denied.