

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

November 13, 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 # 1756

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

The original application (Post Mining Land Use Change Task ID #1630) was considered to be not technically adequate due to a number of deficiencies. The operator was notified of the deficiencies by letter and Technical Analysis dated September 3, 2003. The Division received a response to the deficiencies on November 10, 2003. This response was assigned the Task ID #1756. This technical memorandum addresses only the outstanding deficiencies listed in my previous technical memorandum for Task ID #1630.

RECLAMATION PLAN

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 original application did not specify where the 3' of cover material would be obtained from to cover the portal area. In the new application the operator indicates that the cover material will come from the pad area adjacent to the portals. The cover material resource area needs has been identified in the application with an approximate volume of less than 15 yards.

The operator has also identified the reclamation of the buried rock dust bin. The material to reclaim the rock dust bin will also come from the pad area and will require approximately 19 yards.

The amount of material removed from the pad to due the reclamation work will lower the pad area by approximately two to three feet. Contours used on the drawings are in five foot intervals and will not reflect any change. The final surface configuration is shown on Exhibit A-3.

Exhibits A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4 have been P.E. stamped, signed and dated as required.

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.

The deficiencies identified for the engineering section in the original application Task ID #1630 have been addressed. It is recommended that this application be approved.