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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov>

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3482, SL-066490, (UT-923)

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FEB 22 2006 FEB 17 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested

Mr. R. Jay Marshall
Project Manager
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.
P. O. Box 986
Price, Utah 84501

*Reading
c/007/0013*

Re: Minor Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), Southwest Longwall Panel, Lila Canyon Mine

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received and reviewed a copy of the subject mine plan modification to the R2P2 (Map A). The modification from UtahAmerican addresses mining plans for the southwest corner of the mine property located on Federal coal lease SL-066490.

UtahAmerican proposes to shorten, by about 200 feet, the southwest most longwall of the southern longwall block of panels (Map B). The submission states that there is a high potential for adverse geologic conditions at the south end of this west-most (as yet unnumbered) longwall panel. Shortening the panel by 200 feet would avoid mining in the area of high risk geologic conditions and assure safe and economic coal recovery for this longwall. UtahAmerican has submitted geologic maps to support their belief of adverse geologic conditions in this area.

BLM has evaluated the items submitted and the following additional data, and agrees with the assessment. USGS Bulletin 852 shows an east-west shear zone mapped on the outcrop which trends along the section line between sections 23 and 26 of Township 16 South, Range 14 East. That geologic interpretation maps this shear zone back into plateau and denotes a 50 foot down thrown structure on the south side of the shear zone. Even more telling is a geologic map made by Kaiser Steel Corporation in 1981 which maps outcrop burn in this area of question. Kaiser indicated outcrop burn from this shear zone south to the first step of the Central Graben fault zone. We draw a conclusion that the outcrop area south of section line 23/26 is highly broken up allowing coal burn and oxidation. The existence of minable coal in this area is doubtful and the first longwall panel should be shortened to avoid the area.

In order to ensure maximum economic recovery of the coal energy resource, UtahAmerican is directed at the time of development of the shortened longwall panel, to submit a plan outlining the method(s) to be employed when the mining approaches this area to confirm the non-existence of minable reserves in the 40 acre area in the southwest corner of the lease (NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 26).

This approval of a minor modification to an existing R2P2 is Categorically Excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis in that no new surface disturbance will occur from this action as stated in Overview of BLM's NEPA Process, February 1997, Appendix 2, page 2-7 (F)(7).

The BLM has determined that the proposed modification complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. The southwest longwall panel is shortened as depicted on the enclosed approved mine map.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk at the Price Field Office at (435) 636-3605 or Jeff McKenzie of my staff at (801) 539-4038.

Sincerely,

JAMES F KOHLER

James F. Kohler
Branch Chief, Solid Minerals

Enclosure
Approved Mine Maps

cc: UT-070, Price, Utah (w/enclosure)
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple Street, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Jm-Sa Letter to company 2-17-06

