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# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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December 10, 2007

*AK*

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Team Lead *WHW*

RE: Portal Barriers Lila Canyon, Utah American Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine, C/007/0013 Task ID #2742

## SUMMARY:

On January 22, 2007, the Division received an amendment for the modification of the closure plan for the Lila Canyon portals of the Horse Canyon Mine Part A. The portals were sealed when the Horse Canyon Mine was closed. The seals are up to 75 feet from the surface and the Division and BLM were concerned that the area between the seals and the surface was or could become unsafe. In addition there was the possibility of mine gases leaking from the seals in the future.

The BLM, UEI and the Division agreed to prohibit access to the areas between the surface and the seals by having UEI install gates and the surface. All parties agreed upon the gates because they would provide protection to the public without having additional surface disturbance.

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**RECLAMATION PLAN**

**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 information provided in the amendment met the requirements of this section of the regulations. R645-301-551 requires that the Division ensure that when no longer needed for monitoring or other uses all adit will be sealed or otherwise properly managed to prevent access to the mine working by people, livestock, fish and wildlife.

The Horse Canyon Mine Part A has been sealed and reclaimed. The Permittee has expressed and interested in keeping the portal in a condition that would allow them to be used should the need occur as part of the Horse Canyon Mine Part B. Therefore, the Permittee has requested that the portals not be backfilled.

The BLM and Division found that the used of grates would be an effective method to restrict the public from entering into the mine without causing excess problems for the Permittee in the event that the portals are needed for the Horse Canyon Mine Part B. The Utah Abandoned Mine Land program has installed similar barriers to prevent access. AML found that grates to be effective in preventing access.

**Findings:**

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirement of this section.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Division should approve the amendment because the grates will prevent access to the underground workings but still allow for the possibility of the Permittee using the portals in connection with the Horse Canyon Mine Part B.