



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
P. O. Box 46667
Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

3723

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UT-0020

March 16, 2009

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. "Horse Canyon" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision,
Working Through Exclusionary Periods, Task ID No. 3212

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining's (UT-DOGM) February 11, 2009, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Working Through Exclusionary Periods, has determined that it outlines procedures for continued construction operations during the exclusionary periods established for the protection of raptors, bighorn sheep and antelope at the Horse Canyon / Lila Canyon mine, Utah State permit C/007/0013.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR PART 740 and PART 746. Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Working Through Exclusionary Periods, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the February 11, 2009, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service for their review and comment.

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IN AMERICA** 

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

In an electronic submittal dated February 12, 2009, the USDA Forest Service stated it had no comments or concerns with the permit revision.

The Bureau of Land Management did not provide any comments in the thirty day time frame established by the Federal regulations under 30 CFR 944.30, Article VI. D.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 293-5038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Kirby for". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat slanted style.

Robert Postle
Chief, Field Operations Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division