



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

July 25, 2018

Karin Madsen, Resident Agent  
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 910  
East Carbon, Utah 84520-0910

Subject: Conditional Approval of Shield Abandonment, UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., Horse Canyon Mine, C/007/0013, Task #5722

Dear Ms. Madsen:

The above-referenced amendment is approved conditioned upon receipt of 2 clean copies prepared for incorporation. Please submit these copies by August 24, 2018. Once we receive these copies, final approval will be granted.

A stamped incorporated copy of the approved plans will also be returned to you at that time, for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock  
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs

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**Technical Analysis and Findings**  
**Utah Coal Regulatory Program**

**PID:** C0070013  
**TaskID:** 5722  
**Mine Name:** HORSE CANYON MINE  
**Title:** SHIELD ABANDONMENT

**Operation Plan**

**Spoil Waste Disposals of Noncoal Mine Wastes**

*Analysis:*

The amendment meets the State of Utah R645 requirements for Noncoal Mine Waste Disposal.

Permittee is proposing to abandon the current set of 106 DBT longwall shields upon completion of Panel #6 within Federal Lease SL-066490. Mining will resume in adjacent Panel #7 with a new set of longwall shields. All longwall components from Panel #6 will be salvaged and reinstalled as mining continues in Panel #7 and only the shields from Panel #6 will be abandoned. Prior to abandonment, water will be flushed through the shields to clean out the emulsion ensuring that only the steel remains underground and no oils will leak into the groundwater once the shields are left in place.

In 1998, a BLM commissioned study by the University of Utah focused on the corrosion potential of steel used in longwall mining systems. The results of that study concluded that it would take thousands of years for the metal in the reducing environment of a coal mine to corrode away. Consequently, it is not anticipated that groundwater would be contaminated by the steel longwall shields.

Plate 5-5A included in this amendment outlines the location where the shields will be abandoned.

jeatchel