



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

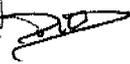
Michael O. Leavitt
 Governor
 Ted Stewart
 Executive Director
 James W. Carter
 Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
 Box 145801
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
 801-538-5340
 801-359-3940 (Fax)
 801-538-7223 (TDD)

September 3, 1997

TO: File

THRU: Joseph Helfrich, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: David Darby, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Plans for Jacobs Pond, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek 2, 7 and 8 Mines, ACT/007/016-96C, File #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY

Mountain Coal Company submitted Plans to reconstruct the pond formerly designated Pond 7a in the Mining and Reclamation Plan. Mountain Coal Company wanted to ensure the pond was stable after reclamation, and reclamation construction made it necessary to remove and rebuild the pond. Revised plans were submitted on November 10, 1996.

There were delays in the amendment process because the landowner had not secured water rights to the spring that fed the pond. Mark Page, Regional Engineer with the Utah Division of Water Rights had to conduct a water rights review before the water right could be appropriated. The water right validates the pond which in turn proves the water right. In a telephone conversation on August 28, 1997, Mark Page stated that he had no problems with the plans Mountain Coal Company submitted for the pond.

Analysis

The amendment Mountain Coal Company submitted proposed that the Pond 7a be demolished and rebuilt to meet post mining obligations. The new pond would be incised into the channel so that no bermed embankments are present. The spillway is designed to pass the 100 yr-6 hr precipitation event. The pond has already been exposed to a large rainstorm exceeding the design standards. Only one minor problem occurred with the pond, some of the riprap had moved down stream from the spillway. The rest of the pond remained in tact. Considering the size of the storm, minor damage was not extraordinary. The operator has repaired the spillway. The pond should withstand future design events without any problems.

Findings

This amendment is recommended for approval.