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

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October 4, 2000

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: Susan M. White, Acting Permit Supervisor *SMB*

RE: Revised Permit Maps, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek #2, #7, & #8
Mines, A [REDACTED] AM99C-2

SUMMARY:

The original amendment to reduce the permit area of the Gordon Creek #2, #7, & #8 Mines was received on February 3, 2000. A response to the deficiencies of the February 3, 2000 submittal was received from the Operator on July 25, 2000. The amendment revises the permit area boundaries since right-of-entry expired with the coal lease relinquishment.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS :

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-114

Analysis:

Right of entry information is found in section 4.3.4 of the permit. All coal leases have been relinquished (1999) and therefore only surface right of entry remains. Surface use agreements are with Calvin Jacob and Sons, Robert and Linda Jewkes and E. E. Peirce.

This permit change does not remove all of the information in the plan concerning reduction of the permit area. Some of the information should remain as a reference and history of the mining.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Page 4-47 of the amendment states the previous permit area was approximately 2286.05 acres and the revised permit area is 180 acres.

Findings:

This section meets the minimum regulatory requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR Sec. 783., et. al.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Permit Area Boundary Maps

The current permit area boundary is shown on Figures 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3.

Surface and Subsurface Ownership Maps

Surface and subsurface ownership maps are shown on Figures 4-1 and 4-2.

Findings:

The information provided in this section meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section. However, additional map information may be required when providing other requested information.

RECLAMATION PLAN

POSTMINING LAND USES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 784.200, 785.16, 817.133; R645-301-412, -301-413, -301-414, -302-270, -302-271, -302-272, -302-273, -302-274, -302-275.

Analysis:

The Operator has evaluated the effects of mining on the stated postmining land use of livestock grazing and wildlife. The primary effects of the mining on the surface lands above mined areas would be in the form of subsidence or water flows. The Operator claims that the utility and capacity of the land above the mining have been unaffected by the mining. Section 4.5.1 of the permit gives the following evidence for the land being unaffected.

- Twelve years of subsidence monitoring has occurred. The results indicate no damage to structures or renewable resources.
- Field examinations and monitoring results of the hydrology of the area indicate no adverse effect to the hydrology or watershed. (This section of the application is deficient. This may be modified as a result of future submittals.)
- Noxious weeds are being controlled within the disturbed area.
- All drill holes have been plugged and sealed.
- Landowners have not given any adverse comment when given the opportunity.

Findings:

The information provided in this section meets the minimum regulatory requirements of this section. This finding maybe revised if future deficiency response identifies other impacts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The reviewed portions of the submittal maybe approved provided additional impacts are not identified in a future deficiency response.