



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

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December 13, 2001

TO: Internal File
FROM: David W. Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist
RE: Water Monitoring Amendment, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek 2,7 & 8 Mines, C/007/016-AM01A

SUMMARY:

Mountain Coal Company submitted an amendment to their water monitoring plan on October 29, 2001 to clarify both sampling locations and monitoring frequencies. The amendment proposes to eliminate four monitoring stations in the Beaver Creek area, which are no longer within the Gordon Creek 2, 7 and 8 Mines permit area. The amendment describes the monitoring the operator plans to follow prior to and after Phase II Bond Release is issued

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

General

Mountain Coal Company currently maintains an ongoing reclamation water monitoring program, which includes most of the baseline and operational monitoring sites. Active mining ceased in 1990. Subsidence monitoring continued through 1998. All leases have been

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relinquished which reduced the permit area from 2286.05 acres to 180.0 acres. The Division approved the permit reduction in September 2001. The revised water monitoring plan will eliminate monitoring sites 2-3-W, 2-4-W, 2-5-W and 2-6-W.

Ground-water monitoring

Two springs will be eliminated from the monitoring plan, 2-5-W (Jewkes' Spring) and 2-6-W (Gunnison Spring).

Surface-water monitoring

Two water monitoring sites on Beaver Creek will be eliminated, 2-3-W (Lower Beaver Creek) and 2-4-W (Lower Beaver Creek). The remaining water monitoring sites 2-1-W, 2-7-W, 2-8-W, 2-9-W 2-10-W and 2-11-W are surface sites and will be monitored quarterly. Samples will be analyzed for parameters listed in Table 7-18. A depiction of surface water monitoring locations, type, frequency and flow is located in Table 7-17.

Site 2-1-W is a UPDES water monitoring site. It will be sampled monthly flow, pH, TDS, TSS, Iron, Manganese and Oil and Grease and Settleable Solids.

Water quality standards and effluent limitations

The surface and groundwater monitoring sites in the Beaver Creek area were evaluated during the permit reduction assessment August 20, 2001. It was determined that there were no impacts to the water resources at that time, see Division of Oil Gas and Mining Internal File, dwd AM99C-4. There have also been several changes to the stream as a result of land use practices by the landowner. Final approval for the permit reduction was November 7, 2001.

Findings:

The operator has submitted sufficient information to address the minimum requirements of the regulations.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

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Analysis:

Affected area boundary maps

The operator submitted Plate 7-2 which shows the mine permit area.

Findings:

The operator has submitted sufficient information to address the minimum requirements of the regulations.

Reclamation monitoring and sampling location maps.

The operator submitted Plate 7-2, which shows the water monitoring sites to be eliminated and those that will be monitored.

Findings:

The operator has submitted sufficient information to address the minimum requirements of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This amendment is recommended for approval.