

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

September 10, 2012

TO: Internal File

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Lead, Biology, Land Use, Cultural Resources *JCH*

RE: PLMU Change, Gordon Creek Disturbed Area, Arch Western Bituminous Group LLC, Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 Mines, C/007/0016, Task ID #4156

SUMMARY:

On August 14, 2012 the Division received an application for a Post Mining Land Use change at the reclaimed Gordon Creek 2, 7 & 8 mines. This memo will include a review of that information.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.15; R645-301-114

Analysis:

The surface ownership for the right to enter the property has been updated to include the following changes; J. Mark Jacob is the sole proprietor of the lands after the death of his father and the right to enter agreement remains in effect with him.

Findings:

The information is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

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 information in section 3.4.1 of the application suggests a post mining land use of stock grazing that will be achieved by the use of the seed mixture that includes shrubs grasses and forbs. Prior to stock grazing the area was primarily used by wildlife. Wildlife habitat will be restored as well during the reclamation of the disturbed areas.

Findings:

The information is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

Revegetation: Standards For Success

Total living cover and biomass production will be utilized when they are 90% of the standards for success of the reference area.

Findings:

The information is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.