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## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Moab District  
Price River Resource Area  
900 North 700 East  
Price, Utah 84501

TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3482  
SL-027304  
(UT-066)

RECEIVED

JAN 13 1994

JAN 1 8 1994

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

CERTIFIED MAIL - Return Receipt Request  
Certification No. P 118 951 132

Mr. Laine Adair  
Chief Engineer  
Andalex Resources, Inc.  
P. O. Box 902  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) Minor Modification, Revised Longwall Mining Plans.

Dear Mr. Adair:

On January 4, 1994, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from Andalex Resources, a minor modification to the approved R2P2 for the mines in the Centennial Project. The subject minor modification revises recently approved longwall mining plans for the whole of the permit area and all the Federal coal leases therein.

Andalex proposes to begin mining the first set of longwall panels in the Pinnacle (Gilson Seam) Mine and then move the longwall to mine panels in the Aberdeen ("A" Seam) Mine. The mining of the Centennial Seam, which was to have been mined first, will be postponed until after the lower "A" Seam is extracted. Mining would then proceed in the Centennial Seam with room and pillar methods instead of longwall methods.

Andalex's justification for changing the longwall panel sequencing is that adverse geologic conditions (a major rock split in the west area and high ash coal in the east area) were encountered during mining in the Centennial Seam which has negated any longwall panel delineation. Andalex's justification for mining the Gilson Seam first with longwall mining methods and moving to the "A" Seam is that the interburden and strata between seams has allowed mining lower seams before the upper seams without adversely affecting mining conditions.

BLM inspected the Centennial Seam mine works on December 14 and 29, 1993. Andalex had developed the set up rooms for the first longwall panel between 3rd West and 4th West. Mining was proceeding east in the 4th West gateroad entries when indications of a rock split were found and verified by BLM along the north-most entry of 4th West. The rock split was noted at crosscut 18 and had increased to over 2 feet thick at crosscut 20 and cut across all three entries. The split had displaced most of the middle of the seam leaving only 2 feet of

ACT/007/019

Flr # 2

Jim - Route to File

coal above and 3 feet below. The rock was a massive hard siltstone and could not be mined further. The trend of the split was thickening to the southeast. The eastern development section in the Centennial Seam was mining in coal that was very streaky with bone coal bands throughout the seam, indicating high ash coal. Results of channels sampling were noted which showed ash contents of 12 percent and above.

In analyzing the proposal, the BLM agrees that the geologic conditions have made longwall mining plans for the Centennial Seam questionable. The rock split has certainly cut off the west end of the two north longwall panels and has cut into the middle of the south panel. High ash indications in the east development section has raised serious questions whether any longwall panels could be delineated in coal of acceptable quality. Standard industry practice in the region has shown that developing and setting up longwall equipment for one or two short panels in a coal seam is not economically viable. Andalex's plan to mine the Centennial Seam with room and pillar methods may be the best approach to achieve maximum economic recovery (MER). Mining can be more selective with room and pillar methods, and can better follow the limits of the minable coal. Since the longwall will produce the bulk of the needed coal production rate, the BLM agrees that trying to mine the Centennial Seam with longwall panels will incur a greater risk of producing an unacceptable coal quality product. By mining the Centennial Seam with room and pillar methods on a as needed basis, higher ash coal areas can be mined and blended off with clean coal production from the longwall.

The BLM has also determined that Andalex's justification for mining the "A" (lower) Seam before the Centennial (upper) Seam is acceptable. Andalex has demonstrated for the area that no adverse effects have occurred with mining the Gilson Seam before the Lower Sunnyside Seam located 200 feet above. In this case, the Centennial Seam is nearly 400 feet above the "A" Seam and the strata between includes a number of massive sandstone members which should further reduce any possible negative impacts to the upper seam.

The BLM has determined that the proposed modification complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve MER of the Federal coal. Andalex's revised plan for longwall mining is approved as submitted. A copy of the approved mine maps are enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk at (801) 637-4584.

Sincerely,

**MARK E. BAILEY**

Area Manager

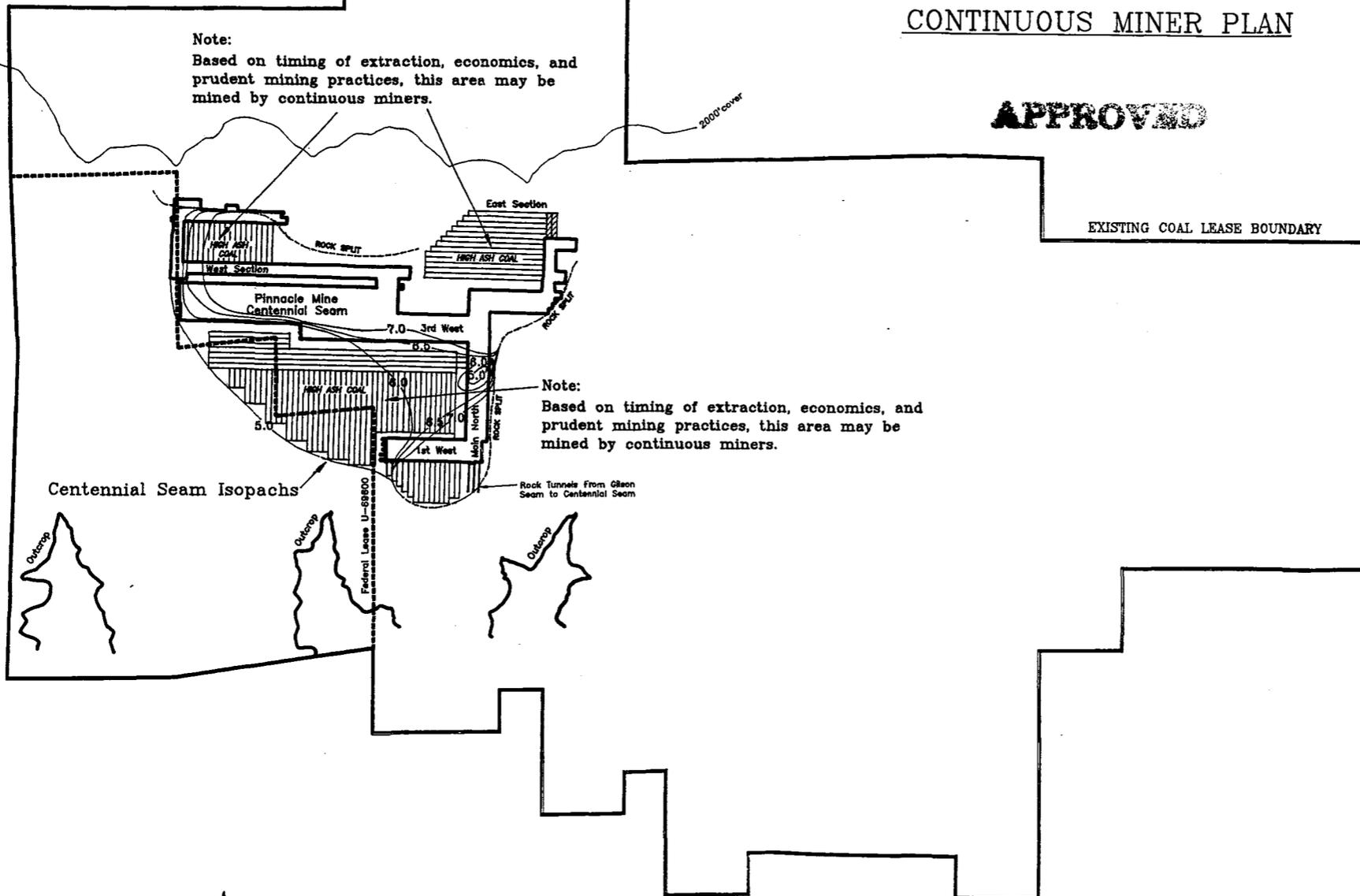
Enclosure:

Approved Mine Maps (4)

cc: DM, Moab (U-065) (w/encl.)  
SD, Utah (U-921) (w/encl.)  
✓ UDOGM, Salt Lake City (w/encl.)

TOWER DIVISION  
CENTENNIAL SEAM  
PRODUCTION AREAS  
CONTINUOUS MINER PLAN

**APPROVED**



Note:  
Based on timing of extraction, economics, and prudent mining practices, this area may be mined by continuous miners.

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LEGEND:  
Mined Areas   
1994 Production Area 

SR / PR REC - JAN 4 1994



SCALE:  
500' 0' 1000' 2000'  
ACID REF. 01/19/94  
January 3, 1994

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JAN 10 1994  
DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Pinnacle Mine  
P.O. Box 902  
Price, Utah 84501