

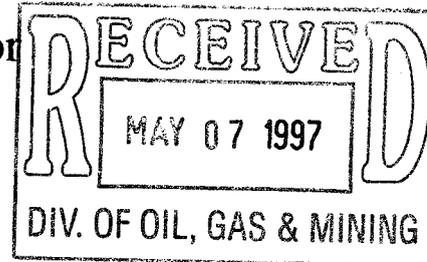
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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab District
Price River/San Rafael Resource Area
125 South 600 West
P.O. Box 7004
Price, Utah 84501



3482
SL-027304
U-66060
(UT-066)

Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested
Certificate No. 382 124 890

MAY - 5 1997

Mr. Larry Johnson
Andalex Resources, Inc.
Tower Division
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

ACT/007/019 #2

Re: Minor Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), Longwall Move to Panel 3, Adverse Conditions, Aberdeen Mine

*FAX Steve @
6-5-97
AFD*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On December 19, 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a request from Andalex to modify the approved R2P2 for the Aberdeen Mine. The modification affects longwall panels 2 and 3 (Third West and Fourth West) located on Federal leases U-66060 and U-010581.

Andalex proposes to halt the mining advance of longwall panel 2 at the current location (crosscut 51), move the longwall directly north to the next panel (#3), and mine that remaining panel. Panel 2 would be left unmined and used as a barrier pillar between panels 1 and 3. Dangerous stress concentrations in the tailgate area of panel 2 were the main concerns of Andalex to abandon the panel.

The BLM is well aware of the major events that took place after the start-up mining of longwall panel 2. Contacts with Andalex and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) officials were noted that verified the two major coal burst events. The fatality was tragic and the BLM sends its sympathy to the survivors.

It is apparent that further advance of longwall panel 2 would result in continued stress concentrations at the tailgate of this panel and continued coal burst potential. We agree that unacceptable stress concentrations due to the upper sandstone not breaking after mining is contributing to the burst events. We see no practical way to destress in advance of mining the longwall. Coal production needs to resume quickly, as the two bursts have disrupted coal production and reduced the coal supply for existing contracts. The only alternative to resume production in a timely fashion is to set the longwall up directly north on the adjacent panel (4th West headgate, panel 3). The BLM agrees that the remaining coal in panel 2 cannot be safely mined with the current longwall. Other mining methods, such as rooming the remaining panel, were also discounted as access along 3rd West (now used as return air off longwall gob) is

precluded, stress concentrations would still be high, and insufficient timing to allow a continuous miner to room the panel while longwall gateroad development falls behind. The BLM agrees that the coal reserves in the remaining panel 2 are not recoverable.

The proposed modification from Andalex meets the requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. Andalex is approved to abandon longwall panel 2 (Third West headgate) and move the longwall directly north to panel 3. This written approval confirms verbal approval given earlier.

The BLM encourages remnant coal recovery at the end of the mine life. The approved mine plan calls for mining remaining coal on final retreat if economically feasible and safe. In particular, remaining coal adjacent to the 2nd West entries (intakes) where they parallel the east turn of Main North should be considered for additional recovery (rooming or partial pillar recovery) with due regard to abutment loading from the 4th West panel to the north if retreat remnant coal recovery is attempted. We make this notice not as a requirement, but to put a reminder in the mine plan record as final retreat mining is analyzed.

A copy of the approved mine map is enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk or George Tetrault of my staff at 636-3600.

Sincerely,

MARK E. BAILEY
Asst Area Manager

Enclosure
Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-921, Utah State Office (w/encl.)
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (w/encl.)
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Fourth West

Longwall Panel 3

Third West

LONGWALL PANEL 2

GOB

END PANEL 2

Second West

GOB

LONGWALL PANEL 1



Main West (Active)

MINOR MODIFICATION TO
MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By:

Stephen W. Felt 5/5/97
Mining Engineering (Date)

Approved By:

Mark E. Bailey 5-5-97
Area Manager (Date)