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

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May 20, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *1002H*

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PAB*

RE: 1183 Acre Addition to Permit Area, Andalex Resources, Inc., Centennial Project, ACT/007/019-98A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

On May 8, 1998, the Division received a proposal from Andalex Resources, Inc., to add 1183 acres to the northern part of its permit area. This would be an increase of about 23% to the existing permit area, so it needs to be classified as a significant revision. The application includes revised land ownership, surface geology, subsidence monitoring, wildlife, hydrology, drill hole reference, and mine plan maps.

Because this is a significant revision, the Division needs to first make a finding of administrative completeness. The following items are administrative completeness items that must be addressed. This list was prepared by one reviewer and is not complete.

1. The application needs to show whether any land is the proposed addition to the permit area has prime farmland.
2. The cover letter says, "... it is our intention to undertake an in-depth hydrologic survey as soon as weather conditions allow." The Division needs this baseline information before it can begin its review. Normally, two years of data are required to show seasonal fluctuations. The applicant also needs to evaluate potential effects of mining on hydrologic resources.
3. Maps need to show adequate adjacent areas to allow the Division to evaluate potential effects of mining to those areas. The maps submitted with the application barely show the entire area proposed to be added to the permit area. In addition, it appears information other than the permit area boundary may not have been added to some maps, such as the wildlife and surface geology maps. On the surface geology map, for example, it seems unlikely the only exposed formation in the northern part of the proposed permit area is the Wasatch Formation.
4. It is impossible to tell from the land ownership maps who owns some land adjacent to the proposed permit area.

5. There is no additional vegetation or soils information. While the requirements for these sections of the regulations may not be extensive, the applicant has not addressed the requirements.
6. Wildlife information needs to be updated. Plate 34 which shows wildlife information is not current. The plateau above the mine contains critical deer and elk fawning and calving areas, and there are raptors using the area, probably for nesting.
7. The Division has allowed the right of entry portion of a mine plan application to be considered administratively complete on the basis of an application being filed with the Bureau of Land Management. To do this, Andalex should provide evidence the application has been filed.
8. Because this is a significant revision where the Division would need to issue a new permit, updated ownership and control and violation information are required.
9. The application includes no new cultural resources information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division cannot determine the application administratively complete. Much of the required baseline information was not included in the application. The maps submitted with the application do not show sufficient adjacent areas, and it is impossible to determine on land ownership maps who owns some contiguous land.