



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

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February 22, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

Re: Mathis Lease Incidental Boundary Change, Andalex Resources, Inc., Centennial Project, ACT/007/019-99-1, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

In a proposal received by the Division December 30, 1998, Andalex Resources, Inc., has proposed to add 160 acres to its permit area. This addition contains fee coal with fee surface, and there would be no surface facilities. Coal that would be mined is in the Aberdeen Seam under about 2500 feet of cover.

Because there would be no surface disturbance, the reclamation plan was not addressed in this review.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

GENERAL CONTENTS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-100

Analysis:

The only changes proposed for this section of the mining and reclamation plan are to the right of entry section and to the section with the notarized signature of the applicant's representative. The application includes right of entry information for the entire Mathis Lease of 640 acres which includes the current proposal. This information is considered adequate.

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The application is required to be current, clear and concise, and to contain accurate information. Several plates in the application appear to show all of Township 12 South, Range 10 East, Section 36, and portions of Township 12 South, Range 11 East, Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32 as being in the permit area. This needs to be corrected. The maps need to show the correct permit area boundaries.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval, the applicant must provide the following information in accordance with:

R645-301-120, Maps in the application need to show correct permit area boundaries.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

CULTURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411.140

Analysis:

The application includes no new cultural resource information. Because there would be no surface disturbance and because subsidence is unlikely, no additional information is required.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

LAND USE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-411

Analysis:

The application includes a statement that there will be absolutely no effect on land use. The current mining and reclamation plan says the land uses in the area are grazing and wildlife

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with some recreation. Vegetation and development in the proposed addition to the permit area is consistent with these uses.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

VEGETATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-320

Analysis:

Since no surface disturbance is intended, vegetation information beyond what is currently in the mining and reclamation plan is not required. The proposed addition to the permit area is on top of a plateau and contains sagebrush/grass and aspen communities.

The application includes updated wildlife maps. The proposed addition to the permit area contains critical deer winter range and high priority sage grouse summer range. In the 1998 raptor survey, no raptor nests were found in this area.

Two peregrine falcon nests (scrapes) have recently been found near the Centennial Mines, but they would not be affected by the proposed mining. Other threatened and endangered species have been found in Carbon County, but, with the possible exception of wintering bald eagles, the proposed addition to the permit area does not contain suitable habitat for these species.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

OPERATION PLAN

CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

R645-301-411.140

Analysis:

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No surface disturbance is proposed, and there is little likelihood of subsidence. The Division should recommend approval to the Division of State History based on this information. The State Historic Preservation Office commented informally they would recommend a determination of No Historic Property based on assurance of no surface disturbance.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. The Division should recommend approval to the Division of State History based on no surface disturbance and little chance of subsidence.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE PROTECTION

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-330

Analysis:

Because the proposed mining would be under about 2500 feet of cover, surface effects are expected to be minimal. Therefore, there should be no effects on terrestrial species. Since no raptors were found in the area, there should be no effects on their nests.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This proposal should not be approved until the deficiency discussed in this memorandum is adequately addressed.