

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

June 27, 2005

TO: Internal File

THRU: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor

THRU: Wayne Western, Environmental Scientist, Team Lead

FROM: James D. Smith, Environmental Scientist

RE: Gob Gas Vent Hole GVH-4, Andalex Resources, Inc., Centennial Project, C/007/0019, Task # 2273

SUMMARY:

This is part of an ongoing "Ventilation Assistance Program", wherein methane from the longwall is to be partially vented to the surface. Because of the deep cover, MSHA has imposed additional methane reduction requirements on the Permittee. Fans at the portals and the existing vent holes are presently ventilating methane from the mine but not at a rate sufficient to meet MSHA safety guidelines. The discharged methane has no commercial value. GVH #1, GVH #2, GVH #5, and GVH #6 have already been authorized (DOGM Tasks # 2166 and # 2161.). The performance standards that applied to the previously approved vent holes will apply to GVH #4.

GVH #4 is to be in longwall Panel #6, which is currently being mined and where holes GVH #1 and GVH #2 have already been bored. GVH #5 and GVH #6 have been or are to be bored into Panel #7, the next projected longwall panel. All vent holes will be located on surface property owned by Dave R. and Mildred Cave, et al., and Mathis Land, Inc. Mathis Land, Inc. and the US Government (managed by BLM) own the mineral rights, which are under lease by Andalex Resources, Inc.

The proposed borehole locations are shown on Figure 1-1 of Appendix X.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

General

The only change made to the Hydrologic Operation Plan by this amendment is the addition of GVH #4 to Figure 1-1 and the inclusion of GVH #4 in the list of sites in Section 711 General Requirements. Information provided is sufficient to approve this amendment to the MRP.

Findings:

Noting that there is no entry for R645-301-731.530 in the MRP and that the Permittee is being required to provide a plan to replace state-appropriated water supplies for the Mathis/Summit Creek State L.B.A. Boundary Change amendment (Task # 2119), the Hydrologic Operations Information provided is (otherwise) sufficient to meet the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Mining Facilities Maps

Proposed locations for the vent holes are shown on Figure 1-1 of Appendix X. GVH #4 has been added to Figure 1-1.

Findings:

Maps, Plans, and Cross Sections of Mining Operations are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules.

CUMULATIVE HYDROLOGIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14; R645-301-730.

Analysis:

The Division has evaluated the Gob Gas Vent Hole amendment and determined that construction and operation of these holes does not require revision of the CHIA determination.

Findings:

The proposed amendment does not require revision of the CHIA determination.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposed amendment should be approved at this time.