

0001

### Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/007/020

File Name: Internal

To: DOGM

From:

Person N/A

Company HORIZON COAL CORPORATION

Date Sent: NOV. 21, 1995

Explanation:

RECORD OF DECISION ON UNDERGROUND  
RIGHT-OF-WAY AND FINDING OF NO  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

cc:

File in: C/007/020, 1995, Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date \_\_\_\_\_ For additional information

0001

File Code 2890

**RECORD OF DECISION ON UNDERGROUND RIGHT-OF-WAY AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

EA Log No.: UT-066-95-30

Serial No.  
and Lease: UTU-73227

Project: Horizon Underground Right-Of-Way

Applicant: Horizon Coal Corporation  
Address: P.O. Box 2560  
Wise, Va. 24293

Project  
Location: T. 13 S., R. 8 E.,  
SLB&M  
County: Carbon, Utah

BLM Office: Price River RA

Phone: (801)-636-3600

**RECORD OF DECISION**

Decision:

My decision is to grant an underground right-of-way to Horizon Coal Corp. to access and mine fee coal. The subject right-of-way would encompass 40 acres more or less. The grant would be issued for a term of 5 years with the right of renewal. Authority for such action is section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat., 2776 43 U.S.C. 1761). The right-of-way would cover the following described public lands and be subject the attached terms, conditions and stipulations:

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah,  
T. 13 S., R. 8 E.,  
Sec. 8, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Sec. 17, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
Portions of: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Rationale:

1. The proposal is not adverse to local, state, or Federal land use plans for the area.
2. The proposal would not cause any significant environmental impacts.
3. The underground right-of-way is necessary to conduct mining operations.

Plan Conformance: This decision is in conformance with the Price River Management Framework Plan of September 1983. Lands planning objective L-2 specifically allows for the granting of rights-of-way such as the subject underground grant. Lands planning objective L-2 states:

To make public lands available to qualified individuals, business or government entities for transportation or other facilities, Interests granted would be right-of-way, temporary use permit, or land use permit.

File in:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Refer to Record No. 0001 Date 11-21-95  
In C1007/020, 1995, Internal  
For additional information

Authority: This decision is based on the authority set forth in 43 CFR 2800 for right-of-ways.

Environmental Considerations: I have considered the environmental consequences of this decision as documented in the accompanying environmental assessment referenced above. Except as noted above in the Decision and Rationale, all environmental considerations have been adequately addressed in the accompanying document.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the accompanying environmental assessment, referenced above, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Mark E. Bailey  
Area Manager

21 Nov 95

File Code: 2800

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COVER SHEET**

EA Log No.: UT-066-95-30 Serial No. and Lease: UTU-73227  
EA Preparation Date: 09/01/95 Project Name: Horizon Underground ROW  
BLM Office: Price River Resource Area Phone No.: (801)-637-4584  
BLM Office Location: Price, Utah County: Carbon  
Applicant: Horizon Coal Corporation Phone No.: 703-679-0804  
Address: P.O. Box 2560  
Wise, VA. 24293

Proposed Action: To approve an underground right-of-way.

LANDS INVOLVED

Township	Range	Meridian	Section	Subdivision
T. 13 S.	R. 8 E.	Salt Lake	8	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
T. 13 S.	R. 8 E.	Salt Lake	17	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
SEE ATTACHED PLAT				

PREPARER

Team Leader:

Don Stephens  
Signature

Geologist  
Title

11/07/95  
Date

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Project Details:

Applicant: Horizon Coal Corporation EA NO.: UT-066-95-30  
Address: P. O. Box 2560 Ser/Case No.: UTU-73227  
Wise, VA. 24293  
BLM Office: Price River RA Location: Price, Utah  
EA Preparation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
BLM Plan and Date: Price River MFP approved September 2, 1983  
Project Title: Horizon Underground ROW  
Project Location: Beaver Creek 12 Miles Northwest of Price, Utah

#### Need for Proposed Action:

Horizon Coal Corporation (HCC) is currently assessing the feasibility of opening a coal mine located 12 miles northwest of Price in Carbon County, Utah. As a result of this assessment, HCC has determined a need to obtain an underground right-of-way (ROW) which would allow them to access a tract of fee coal which they control and also access unleased Federal coal for which HCC has expressed an interest in obtaining a lease. HCC is in control of coal and surface rights at the coal outcrop located at the old Consumers Mine site and is in the process of obtaining a mining permit for the fee property. The ROW would connect the outcrop mining area with fee property HCC controls north of the mine site. The 40 acres of the proposed underground ROW is unleased Federal coal, with the state of Utah controlling the surface, except for SWSWSE of section 8 which is BLM surface. With an underground ROW, HCC can access and mine the fee tract while the lease tract (referred to as the "Beaver Creek Tract"), which includes the ROW area, can be processed and leased.

Plan Conformance: This proposed project is in conformance with the Price River Management Framework Plan (MFP) of September 1983 which allows for the exploration, leasing, and mining of Federal coal leases. The area for the ROW was a former Federal coal lease that was terminated. The area for the ROW was under lease when the MFP was formulated and completed. Hence, the area is open to coal leasing using standard lease stipulations.

### II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

#### Proposed Action:

An underground right-of-way (Attachments 1 & 2) would be needed to access the fee coal which HCC controls. HCC proposes to mine 5 parallel entries, each of which would be up to 20 feet wide by the full height of the Castlegate coal seam which averages 6 to 7 feet in height. The entries would be laid out with 80-foot by 120-foot centers. The total linear distance that would be mined would be approximately 2400 feet. The right-of-way would be mined using room-and-pillar mining methods. The equipment used would be: 1) a Joy 14CM15 continuous miner; 2) two Joy 10SC32B shuttlecars; 3) a Stamler feeder breaker; and 4) a Fletcher walkthrough roofbolter. Coal would be conveyed from the mine on a 48-inch-wide belt conveyor. All activities on this ROW would be underground mining, with no surface facilities or disturbance. Since the mine working in the ROW would be used for access, no retreat mining (mining of coal pillars) would occur, except for possibly a small corridor of coal up against the old Consumer Mine workings that could be second mined if acquisition of the north reserves is delayed. Regardless, no surface subsidence would occur as sufficient pillars would be left for support. A total of 120,000 tons of coal would be mined from the right-of-

way. There would be approximately 40 acres of land included in the ROW. The legal description of the land required is:

SLM, Utah, T. 13 S., R. 8 E.  
 Sec. 8 SW1/4SW1/4SE1/4  
 Sec. 17 NE1/4SW1/4NE1/4  
 SE1/4SW1/4NE1/4  
 NE1/4NE1/4NW1/4

Alternative Action:

The only alternative proposed is no action. HCC would be denied approval of the underground right-of-way.

Affected Environment:

The project area is characterized by a deeply incised plateau. This topography is the result of advanced erosion carving up a flat-top plateau forming steep-walled canyons cutting into the proposed tract. Elevations range from over 9,000 feet above sea level on the top of the ridges to 7,500 feet above sea level in the bottom of the deepest canyon.

The principal drainage found within the proposed ROW is a perennial stream, the North Fork of Gordon Creek.

The plants found in the area include: sagebrush, grasses, Mountain mahogany, Utah serviceberry, aspen and occasional conifers. Some of the predominate mammals which may occur in the general area include: elk, deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, coyote, badger, porcupine, snowshoe hare, golden mantled squirrel, red fox, marmot, and other species of small rodents. Some of the birds which may inhabit the area include: Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, various species of owls, Blue Grouse and Ruffed Grouse. Reptiles and amphibians of the area may include: boreal toad, leopard frog, northern sagebrush lizard, great basin gopher snake and great basin rattlesnake.

Soils in the proposed area consist of very deep, well-drained, moderately permeable soils derived from shale and sandstone.

A cultural resource inventory has been conducted for the affected areas by Baseline Data, Inc. The inventory recorded the location of the Consumers or Blue Blaze Mine (42CB517). This site was once evaluated as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but has since lost its integrity due to vandalism, natural decay, erosion and the demolition of the structures. The construction of Horizon's surface facility will remove most of the remaining site features which now have little potential for any type of data recovery.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The following mandatory items have been considered for this environmental assessment. Items that may be impacted have been discussed within the environmental assessment; the remainder will not be affected and are not discussed.

	May Be Impacted	Will Not Be Affected		Specialist Signature/Date
1.	a. [ ]	[✓]	Threatened or Endangered Plants	<i>Don Stokes</i> 11-13-95
	b. [ ]	[✓]	Threatened or Endangered Animals	<i>Don Stokes</i> 11-13-95
2.	[ ]	[X]	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	<i>Don Stokes</i> 11-13-95
3.	[X]	[ ]	Cultural or Historic Resources	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11-13-95
4.	[ ]	[X]	Floodplains and Wetlands	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/8/95
5.	[ ]	[X]	Wilderness Values	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11-8-95
6.	[ ]	[X]	Visual Resource Management	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i>
7.	[ ]	[X]	Water Resources	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/8/95
8.	[ ]	[X]	Air Quality	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/8/95
9.	[ ]	[X]	Paleontological Resources	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/8/95
10.	[ ]	[ ]	Prime or Unique Farmlands	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/13/95
11.	[ ]	[ ]	Wild and Scenic River	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11-8-95
12.	[ ]	[X]	Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/13/95
13.	[ ]	[ ]	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/13/95
14.	[ ]	[X]	Hole Plugging Procedure	<i>Don Stokes</i> 11/13/95

The above project has been analyzed for conformance with BLM plans and consistency with local government. Significant discrepancies are discussed in the body of the environmental assessment.

The following items have also been considered in this environmental assessment. Items which may be impacted have been discussed within the environmental assessment; the remainder will not be affected and are not discussed.

	May Be Impacted	Will Not Be Affected		Specialist Signature/Date
1.	[ ]	[X]	Grazing	<i>Ray Johnson</i> 11/8/95
2.	[ ]	[X]	Wildlife	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11/13/95
3.	[ ]	[X]	Recreation	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i> 11-8-95
4.	[ ]	[X]	Soils	<i>Blaine G. Nathan</i>

Impacts of the Proposed Action:

There would be no impacts to the surface from the underground mine workings as subsidence does not occur in areas where coal pillars are left for support.

Since no subsidence is anticipated, the only impact of the proposed action to water resources would be potential draining of any water which occurs within the coal seam itself.

Indirect Impacts of the Proposed Action:

Impacts to the surface would be in the portal area of the proposed mine where mine facilities are proposed. Those impacts will be analyzed by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the BLM as the proposed mine plan is evaluated.

Impacts of Alternatives:

The impacts of the no action alternative action would be to HCC. They would not be able to complete the permitting process for a mine or develop a mine plan.

Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:

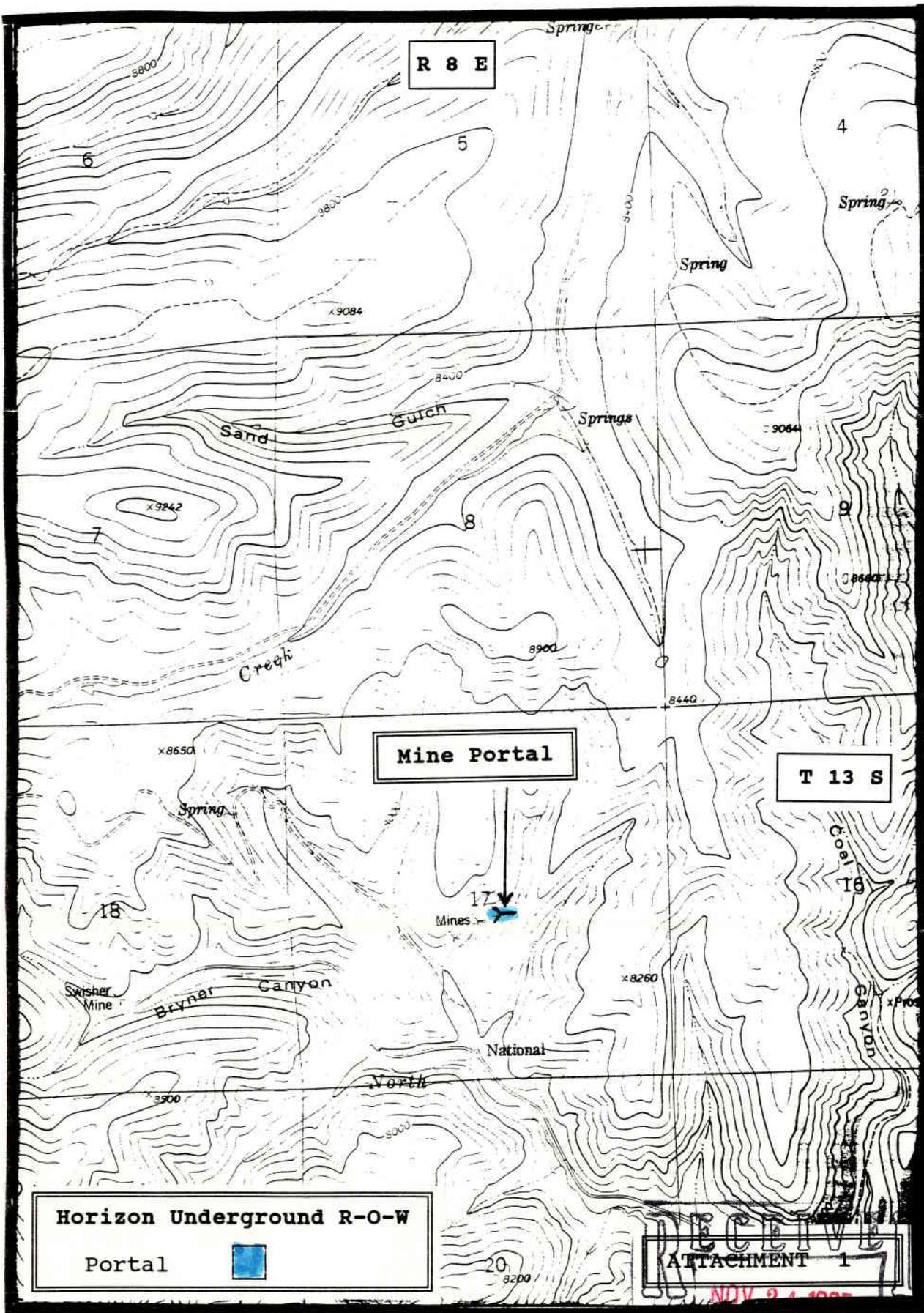
None

PERSONS OR AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Ms. Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Price River Resource Area  
Moab District  
Bureau of Land Management  
125 South 6th West  
Price, Utah 84501

Mark Bailey, Area Manager  
Dean Nyffeler, Supervisory Geologist  
George Tetreault, Supervisory Mining Eng.  
David Mills, Wildlife Biologist  
Kerry Flood, Hydrologist  
Ray Jenson, Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist  
Mark Mackiewicz, Realty Specialist  
Dennis Willis, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Blaine Miller, Archeologist  
Stephen Falk, Mining Engineer



R 8 E

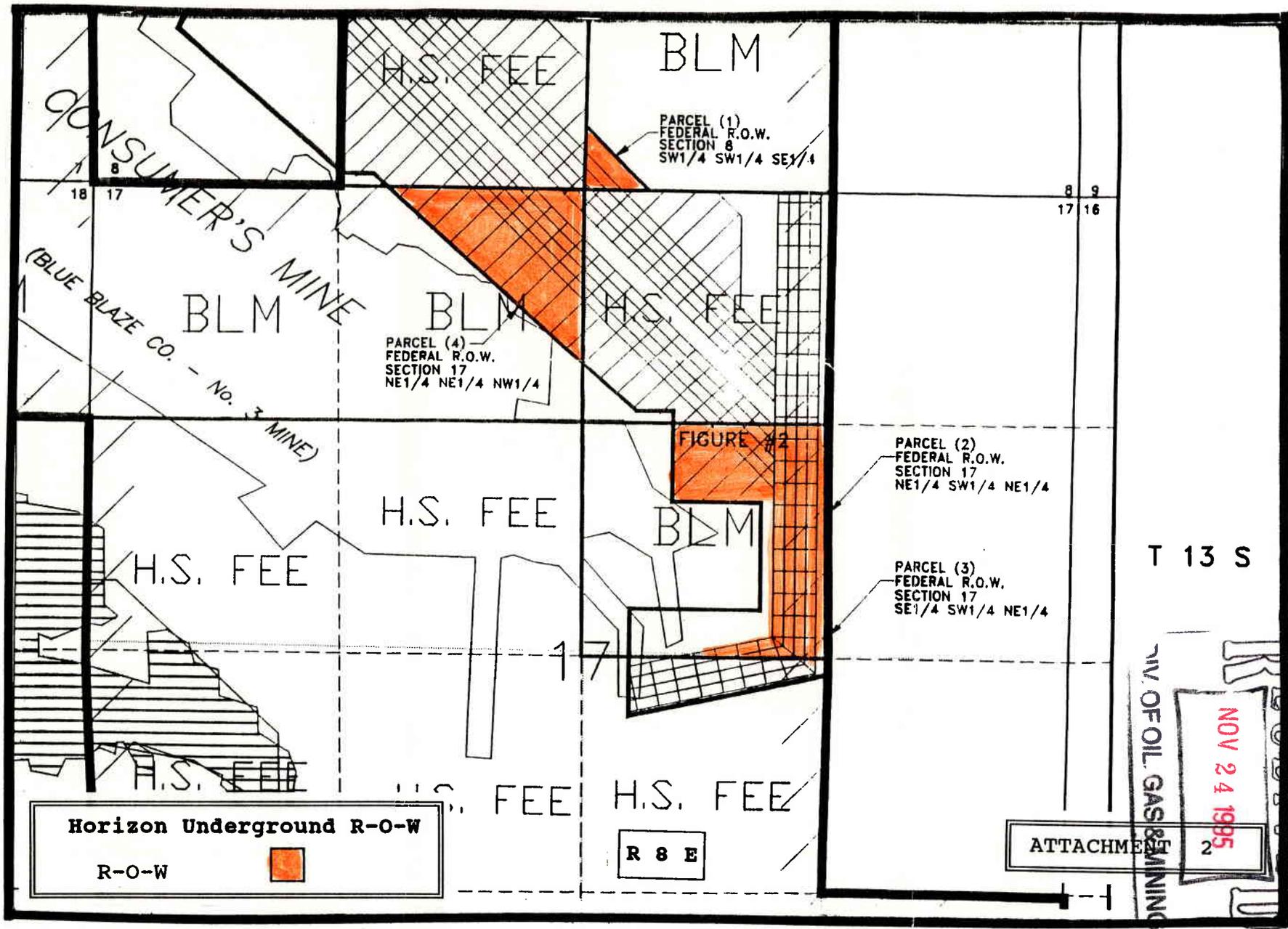
T 13 S

Mine Portal

Horizon Underground R-O-W  
Portal

RECEIVED  
ATTACHMENT 1  
NOV 2 1987

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING



H.S. FEE

BLM

PARCEL (1)  
FEDERAL R.O.W.  
SECTION 8  
SW1/4 SW1/4 SE1/4

8 9  
17 16

CONSUMER'S MINE  
BLUE BLAZE CO. - No. 3 MINE

BLM

BLM

H.S. FEE

PARCEL (4)  
FEDERAL R.O.W.  
SECTION 17  
NE1/4 NE1/4 NW1/4

FIGURE #2

PARCEL (2)  
FEDERAL R.O.W.  
SECTION 17  
NE1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4

H.S. FEE

BLM

T 13 S

H.S. FEE

PARCEL (3)  
FEDERAL R.O.W.  
SECTION 17  
SE1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4

17

H.S. FEE

H.S. FEE

H.S. FEE

Horizon Underground R-O-W

R-O-W



R 8 E

ATTACHMENT 2

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