



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

May 30, 1995

TO: Daron Haddock

From: David Darby  *WORKING FILE*

RE: Horizon Coal Corporation Exploration Application,
EXP/007/020-95A, Folder #2 and 6, Carbon County, Utah.

Synopsis

Exploration Plan resubmitted by Horizon Coal Corporation on April 14, 1995 identified three drill sites, possibly four that will be developed to assess coal and groundwater conditions adjacent to the proposed mine plan area.

Analysis

The applicant has presented baseline *information related to the soils, vegetation and wildlife* that are present at the site. The applicant has specified methods that will be used during development to preserve the soils and protect wildlife. The plan states that the sites will be restored to approximate original contour and revegetated with an approved specified seed mixture. Silt fences and berms will be installed to control sediments from leaving the sites.

Three of the drill holes will be developed into groundwater monitoring wells. All proposed drill sites are located near to existing roads. Short access roads will have to be constructed to develop Sites PRP-2 and PRP-4.

The applicant provided plans for developing the wells. It appears that all three wells will be completed to monitor the Starpoint Sandstone, which is located immediately below the lowest minable coal seam. Well development will be conducted under the direction of a licensed Utah Water Well Driller.

The applicant is currently seeking authorization to use water from beaver ponds and an artesian well in Section 5 along the access road.



Recommendation

The exploration plan is deficient in addressing some information for exploration development.

1. R645-203.232 The applicant shows that a road will be developed to gain access to drill site PRP-2, which will cross a tributary to Beaver Creek. The applicant has not identified the effects of development to the stream, what methods will be used to prevent sediment from reaching the stream or if a culvert will be used to cross the stream. The applicant should check with the State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights to see if a permit is required to transverse the stream.
2. R645-202-200. 235 and 244.100 The applicant has identified that monitoring well development will take place in the Starpoint Sandstone. The applicant should provide plans to identify and monitor other aquifers contacted during the drilling phase.
3. R645-202-200.234 The applicant needs to show proof of permission to divert and use water from Beaver Creek and the artesian well.
4. R645-201-300.326 The applicant shall provide proof of right of access to the property to conduct trespass and drilling operations.

Horizon Coal Corporation's exploration plan is determined incomplete until the above deficiencies are adequately addressed.

cc. J. Helfrich