



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 9, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

THRU: Bill Malencik, Project Lead

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Soils Reclamation Specialist *PB*

RE: Response to Division Order 99B, Received November 10, 1999, Loadstar Energy, Inc. Horizon Mine, ACT/007/020, Folder # 2, Carbon County, Utah

## Summary:

Division Order 99B was issued on 5/12/99 to Horizon Mining, LLC, to request a clear and concise Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) as follows:

- describe operation plan and map;
- provide reclamation plan for all items described in operations;
- cite coal mine waste storage location;
- define coal mine waste, underground development waste and coal processing waste (Chap 3);
- demonstrate compliance with the Utah Air Quality Permit.

R. Davidson's previous review of the August 20, 1999 submittal detailed compliance with all of the above issues in the Division Order, except the disposition of sediment pond waste.

A previous commitment in the Mining and Reclamation Plan has been overlooked. That is to sample the roof and floor every 2,000 feet throughout the mine site. Providing this information is of particular importance due to the increased discharge of water from the mine site and the plan to store underground development waste within the mine.

**Analyses:**

**ITEM 1a. Update the text of the operation plan of the current MRP to accurately describe the coal conveyance system, separation facilities, coal storage areas, coal mine waste handling and storage facilities area, other materials handling and storage areas, snow storage areas and all haulage areas; and to clearly show on a map all of the preceding in accordance with R645-301-500.**

The submittal should reflect current conditions at the mine site. Where operations plans have already been implemented, the MRP should be written in the past tense. Where plans are being laid for the future, future tense is appropriate. This submittal is written in future tense which is confusing to the reader.

Stored topsoil is shown in Plate 3.1 at the upper reach of Portal Canyon. Topsoil has also been stored on interim reclamation slopes along the length of the facilities pad. This location of topsoil has been overlooked on Plate 3.1.

No underground development waste storage location is shown on Plate 3-1; the waste will be transported to COGEN for permanent disposal. The first two sentences under **Surface Facilities** on page 3-6, section 3.2.3, should be rewritten to express the idea that should it become necessary to store the underground development waste within the disturbed area of the Horizon Mine, an amendment to the plan will be pursued. Page 3-6 of this submittal attempts to state this, but the wording presumes that a permanent stockpile will be permitted by the Division.

In contrast with the statement on page 3-10 under **Refuse Piles**, there is coal mine waste buried on the site in the facilities pad. Approximately 2500 CY of coal and coal mine waste is contained within the embankment located at the mouth of Portal Canyon (page 3-17, section 3.3.2.5).

Two locations have been designated on Plate 3-1 for storage of sediment pond/ditch muck. Both locations are isolated from the main traffic of the operations pad. Neither location can store a large quantity of material. Sediment pond sludge will be tested for use as substitute topsoil (page 3-10 of the MRP). The Division will not be consider the sediment acceptable if it contains an excess of coal fines and fragments.

**Findings:**

The permittee must provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

**R645-301-231.400**, Include in Plate 3.1 the location of the topsoil stored on interim reclamation slopes along the length of the facilities pad, and

**R645-301-121.200**,

- a) Rewrite the first two sentences under **Surface Facilities** on page 3-6, section 3.2.3, to clearly express the intention to request an amendment to the plan for the storage of underground development waste on the surface, and
- b) Rewrite the statement on page 3-10 under **Refuse Piles** to reflect the fact that there is coal mine waste buried on the site in the facilities pad, and
- c) Write the entire submittal in the tense which reflects current conditions at the mine site.

**Analyses:**

**ITEM 2. If coal mine waste is to be produced at the Horizon Mine, state the location and volume of temporary and final storage of coal mine waste at the Horizon Mine in accordance with R645-301-500.**

**ITEM 3. Amend the text of Chapter 3 of the Horizon MRP, Section 3.3, p. 3-6 and 3-7, to clarify Horizon Mining's current MRP designations of "coal", "rocky coal", "high ash coal", "waste rock" and "coal waste materials" as to how they fall under Utah Coal Mining Rules R645 et seq of "coal", "coal mine waste", "underground development waste", or "coal processing waste".**

**ITEM 3a. Horizon Mining must further clarify its criteria for underground development waste, specifically referencing a) Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) standards regarding storage of underground development waste in the Horizon Mine workings prior to bringing the waste to the surface.**

Underground development waste will be disposed of within the mine. The waste will be sampled if and when it is brought to the surface (one sample/5000 CY). Waste brought to the surface will be transported to an offsite, storage facility (COGEN). Chapter 6 of the MRP describes the roof samples as carbonaceous shale and sandstone.

Currently, there is a commitment in the MRP to sample and analyze overburden and underburden at 2,000 foot intervals throughout the mine (see page 6-17). Collection and reporting of this information is of increased importance due to the amount of water being discharged from the mine into the sediment pond, and then directly in Jewkes Creek (MRP page 7-30).

**Findings:**

The permittee must provide the following, prior to approval, in accordance with the requirements of:

**R645-300-143**, provide analytical reports of roof and floor samples every 2,000 feet throughout the mine from 1996 to present and continue reporting this information in future quarterly reports.

cc: R.Davidson  
S.Falvey