



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 17, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRH*

FROM: Sharon Falvey, Senior Reclamation Specialist *SMP*

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

SUMMARY:

This amendment is submitted in response to Division Order 99B (DO99B). The amendment contains extraneous information related to reclamation that requires a detailed site specific description of the reclamation construction sequence. No changes to the drainage plan were presented.

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:

The following analysis is specific with the items related to hydrology within the Division Order 99B May 12, 1999. Items from the order are identified in bold text and followed by a discussion of related elements in the amendment.

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.

Underground development waste will be backfilled into dead-end panels in the mine. Due to the extensive water intercepted in the mine the mine will need to consider further testing and column leach analysis of underground coal mine waste. This information will not be requested as part of this Division Order since the Permittee is not currently mining and the issue can be addressed during processing of the federal lease area permitting action. Snow storage locations are shown within the disturbed area designed to report to the sedimentation pond. This location satisfies the requested information for snow storage in the Division Order.

ITEM 1b: Update the text and maps to show the reclamation plans for each of the preceding items if different than the current reclamation plan, or if the current plan does not include the preceding items in 1.a. in accordance with R645-301-500.

The changes to the reclamation plan in this amendment are not directly related to surface configuration changes due to storage of coal waste. The changes presented include sediment pond removal. These interim sediment control measures are not adequate to meet the best management practices/alternate sediment control measures. Since this is not related to this Division Order it is recommended the information be submitted in conjunction with permitting the new lease area. Additional details describing the reclamation sequence and proposed construction activity are necessary before approval can be granted for the proposed alternate sediment control measures. The use of silt fences in the stream channel is not an acceptable ASC/BTCA measure for this site. Similar statements were made in the Technical Analysis conducted at permit issuance.

Findings:

No significant changes to the plan were made to hydrologic designs requiring changes to be made in the Technical Analysis hydrologic sections.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the application be approved and incorporated with the plan if all other requirements of the R645-301 regulation are met.