0048

Route - Mary Ann Wright
Ron Daniel, File

OK

United States Department of the Interior

RECEIVED

NOV 3 1 2001

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

In Reply Refer To:
3451
UTU-47975
(UT-924)

OCT 3 1 2001

Incoming
C/007/020

CERTIFIED MAIL–Return Receipt Requested

DECISION

Lodestar Energy, Inc.	:	Coal Lease
333 West Vine Street, Suite 1700	:	UTU-47975
Lexington, KY 40507	:	

Readjustment of Coal Lease UTU-47975
Effective December 1, 2001

The regulations under 43 CFR 3451.1(a)(1) and (2) state:

1. All leases issued after August 4, 1976, shall be subject to readjustment at the end of the first 20-year period and, if the lease is extended, each 10-year period thereafter.

2. Any lease subject to readjustment which contains a royalty rate less than the minimum royalty prescribed in 43 CFR 3473.3-2 shall be readjusted to conform to the minimum prescribed in that section.

Coal lease UTU-47975 was issued effective December 1, 1981. By notice dated August 6, 2001, Lodestar Energy, Inc. was notified that the terms and conditions of the readjustment would be provided in accordance with the regulations under 43 CFR 3451 no later than December 1, 2001.

As provided in Section 23 of the lease and in accordance with the regulations under 43 CFR 3451.2, enclosed are the terms and conditions of coal lease UTU-47975 effective December 1, 2001.

A lease bond in the amount of $13,000, conditioned upon compliance with all the terms and conditions of the lease, is recommended to cover the annual rental on this non-producing lease. Currently, a cash bond, in the amount of $15,000, is on hand to cover this lease. A refund of the $2,000 difference will be sent under separate cover. This lease is currently in the pending Lodestar Logical Mining Unit (LMU) application. If the LMU should be rejected, or subsequently fail for any reason, UTU-47975 will revert to its lease terms and conditions, and will terminate effective December 1, 1991, for lack of diligent development.

Coal lease UTU-47975 is hereby readjusted effective December 1, 2001, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 3451.2.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4, and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21)(58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay **must** also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed in this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

(1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,

(2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,

(3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and

(4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Roger Zortman
Deputy State Director
Lands and Minerals

Enclosures
1. Form 1842-1
2. Coal Lease Readjustment (9 pp)

cc: Ms. Jill Ptacek, Department of Justice (w/encl.)
Resource Development Coordinating Committee (w/encl.)
Mr. Lowell Braxton, Director, UDOGM (w/encl.)
Price Coal Office (Attn: Steve Falk)(w/encl.)
MMS, MRM, Solid Minerals Staff (w/encl.)
Lodestar Energy, Inc., Attn: David Miller, HC35 Box 370, Helper, UT 84526 (w/encl.)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COAL LEASE READJUSTMENT

Serial Number UTU-47975

Lease Date December 1, 1981

Part I. LEASE RIGHTS GRANTED

This lease, entered into by and between the United States of America, hereinafter called the lessor, through the Bureau of Land Management, and

Lodestar Energy, Inc.
333 West Vine Street, Suite 1700
Lexington, KY 40507

hereinafter called lessee, is readjusted, effective December 1, 2001, for a period of 10 years and for so long thereafter as coal is produced in commercial quantities from the leased lands, subject to readjustment of lease terms at the end of each 10 year lease period.

Sec. 1. This lease readjustment is subject to the terms and provisions of the:

/X/ Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, Act of February 25, 1920, as amended, 41 Stat. 437, 30 U.S.C. 181-287, hereinafter referred to as the Act;

/ / Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands, Act of August 7, 1947, 61 Stat. 913, 30 U.S.C. 351-359;

and to the regulations and formal orders of the Secretary of the Interior which are now or hereafter in force, when not inconsistent with the express and specific provisions herein.

Sec. 2. Lessor, in consideration of any rents and royalties to be paid, and the conditions and covenants to be observed as herein set forth, hereby grants to lessee the exclusive right and privilege to drill for, mine, extract, remove or otherwise process and dispose of the coal deposits in, upon, or under the following described lands:

T. 13 S., R. 7 E., SLM, UT
Sec. 1, SWNW, SW, W2SE, SESE;
Sec. 2, All;
Sec. 3, Lots 1, 2, 5-8, SWNE, NWSE;
Sec. 11, All;
Sec. 12, W2W2;
Sec. 13, W2W2;
Sec. 14, All;
Sec. 23, All;
Sec. 24, W2NW, NWSW.

containing 3,627.840 acres, more or less, together with the right to construct such works, buildings, plants, structures, equipment and appliances and right to use such on-lease rights-of-way which may be necessary and convenient in the exercise of the rights and privileges granted, subject to the conditions herein provided.

PART II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Sec. 1. (a) RENTAL RATE. Lessee shall pay lessor rental annually and in advance for each acre or fraction thereof during the continuance of the lease at the rate of $3.00 for each lease year.

(b) RENTAL CREDITS. Rental shall not be credited against either production or advance royalties for any year.

Sec. 2.(a) PRODUCTION ROYALTIES. The royalty shall be 12½ percent of the value of coal produced by strip or auger mining methods and 8 percent of the value of coal produced by underground mining methods. Royalties are due to lessor the final day of the months succeeding the calendar month in which the royalty obligation accrues.

(b) ADVANCE ROYALTIES. Upon request by the lessee, the authorized officer may accept for a total of not more than 10 years, the payment of advance royalties in lieu of continued operation, consistent with the regulations. The advance royalty shall be based on a percent of the value of a minimum number of tons determined in the manner established by the advance royalty regulations in effect at the time the lessee requests approval to pay advance royalties in lieu of continued operation.

Sec. 3. BONDS. Lessee shall maintain in the proper office a lease bond in the amount of $13,000. The authorized officer may require an adjustment in the amount of the bond to reflect changed conditions.

Sec. 4. DILIGENCE. This lease is subject to the conditions of diligent development and continued operation, except that these conditions are excused when operations under the lease are interrupted by strikes, the elements, or casualties not attributable to the lessee. The lessor, in the public interest, may suspend the condition of continued operation upon payment of advance royalties in accordance with the regulations in existence at the time of the suspension. Lessee's failure to produce coal in commercial quantities at the end of 10 years shall terminate the lease. If not submitted already, lessee shall submit an operation and reclamation plan pursuant to Section 7 of the Act not later than 3 years after the effective date of this lease readjustment.

The lessor reserves the power to assent to or order the suspension of the terms and conditions of this lease in accordance with, inter alia, Section 39 of the Mineral Leasing Act, 30 U.S.C. 209.

Sec. 5. LOGICAL MINING UNIT (LMU). Either upon approval by the lessor of the lessee's application or at the direction of the lessor, this lease shall become an LMU or part of an LMU, subject to the provisions set forth in the regulations.

The stipulations established in an LMU approval in effect at the time of LMU approval will supersede the relevant inconsistent terms of this lease so long as the lease remains committed to the LMU. If the LMU of which this lease is a part is dissolved, the lease shall then be subject to the lease terms which would have been applied if the lease had not been included in an LMU.

Sec. 6. DOCUMENTS, EVIDENCE AND INSPECTION. At such times and in such form as lessor may prescribe, lessee shall furnish detailed statements showing the amounts and quality of all products removed and sold from the lease, the proceeds therefrom, and the amount used for production purposes or unavoidably lost.

Lessee shall keep open at all times for the inspection of any duly authorized officer of lessor, the leased premises and all surface and underground improvements, works, machinery, ore stockpiles, equipment, and all books, accounts, maps, and records relative to operations, surveys, or investigations on or under the leased lands.

Lessee shall allow lessor access to and copying of documents reasonably necessary to verify lessee compliance with terms and conditions of the lease.

While this lease remains in effect, information obtained under this section shall be closed to inspection by the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Sec. 7. DAMAGES TO PROPERTY AND CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS. Lessee shall comply at its own expense with all reasonable orders of the Secretary, respecting diligent operations, prevention of waste, and protection of other resources.

Lessee shall not conduct exploration operations, other than casual use, without an approved exploration plan. All exploration plans prior to the commencement of mining operations within an approved mining permit area shall be submitted to the authorized officer.

Lessee shall carry on all operations in accordance with approved methods and practices as provided in the operating regulations, having due regard for the prevention of injury to life, health, or property, and prevention of waste, damage or degradation to any land, air, water, cultural, biological, visual, and other resources, including mineral deposits and formations of mineral deposits not leased hereunder, and to other land uses or users. Lessee shall take measures deemed necessary by lessor to accomplish the intent of this lease term. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, modification to proposed siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation procedures. Lessor reserves to itself the right to lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of the surface or other mineral deposits in the lands and the right to continue existing uses and to authorize future uses upon or in the leased lands, including issuing leases for mineral deposits, not covered hereunder and approving easements or rights-of-way. Lessor shall condition such uses to prevent unnecessary or unreasonable interference with rights of lessee as may be consistent with concepts of multiple use and multiple mineral development.

Sec. 8. PROTECTION OF DIVERSE INTERESTS, AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. Lessee shall: pay when due all taxes legally assessed and levied under the laws of the State or the United States; accord all employees complete freedom of purchase; pay all wages at least twice each month in lawful money of the United States; maintain a safe working environment in accordance with standard industry practices; restrict the workday to not more than 8 hours in any one day for underground workers, except in emergencies; and take measures necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. No person under the age of 16 years shall be employed in any mine below the surface. To the extent that laws of the State in which the lands are situated are more restrictive than the provisions in this paragraph, then the State laws apply.

Lessee will comply with all provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

Neither lessee nor lessee's subcontractors shall maintain segregated facilities.

Sec. 9(a) TRANSFERS

/X/ This lease may be transferred in whole or in part to any person, association, or corporation qualified to hold such lease interest.

/__/ This lease may be transferred in whole or in part to another public body, or to a person who will mine the coal on behalf of, and for the use of, the public body or to a person who for the limited purpose of creating a security interest in favor of a lender agrees to be obligated to mine the coal on behalf of the public body.

/__/ This lease may only be transferred in whole or in part to another small business qualified under 13 CFR 121.

Transfers of record title, working or royalty interest must be approved in accordance with the regulations.

(b) RELINQUISHMENT. The lessee may relinquish in writing at any time all rights under this lease or any portion thereof as provided in the regulations. Upon lessor's acceptance of the relinquishment, lessee shall be relieved of all future obligations under the lease or the relinquished portion thereof, whichever is applicable.

Sec. 10. DELIVERY OF PREMISES, REMOVAL OF MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, ETC. At such time as all portions of this lease are returned to lessor, lessee shall deliver up to lessor the land leased, underground timbering, and such other supports and structures necessary for the preservation of the mine workings on the leased premises or deposits and place all workings in condition for suspension or abandonment. Within 180 days thereof, lessee shall remove from the premises all other structures, machinery, equipment, tools, and materials that it elects to or as required by the authorized officer. Any such structures, machinery, equipment, tools, and materials remaining on the leased lands beyond 180 days, or approved extension thereof, shall become the property of the lessor, but lessee shall either remove any or all such property or shall continue to be liable for the cost of removal and disposal in the amount actually incurred by the lessor. If the surface is owned by third parties, lessor shall waive the requirement for removal, provided the third parties do not object to such waiver. Lessee shall, prior to the termination of bond liability or at any other time when required and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, reclaim all lands the surface of which has been disturbed, dispose of all debris or solid waste, repair the offsite and onsite damage caused by lessee's activity or activities incidental thereto, and reclaim access roads or trails.

Sec. 11. PROCEEDINGS IN CASE OF DEFAULT. If lessee fails to comply with applicable laws, existing regulations, or the terms, conditions and stipulations of this lease, and the noncompliance continues for 30 days after written notice thereof, this lease shall be subject to cancellation by the lessor only by judicial proceedings. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by lessor of any other legal and equitable remedy, including waiver of the default. Any such remedy or waiver shall not prevent later cancellation for the same default occurring at any other time.

Sec. 12. HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS - IN-INTEREST. Each obligation of this lease shall extend to and be binding upon, and every benefit hereof shall inure to, the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns of the respective parties hereto.

Sec. 13. INDEMNIFICATION. Lessee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States from any and all claims arising out of the lessee's activities and operations under this lease.

Sec. 14. SPECIAL STATUTES. This lease is subject to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1151 - 1175); the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857 et seq.), and to all other applicable laws pertaining to exploration activities, mining operations and reclamation, including the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.)

Sec. 15. SPECIAL STIPULATIONS.

SEE ATTACHED STIPULATIONS

BLM STIPULATIONS

The following stipulations made part of this lease may be waived or amended with the mutual consent of the Lessor and Lessee.

1. In accordance with Sec. 523(b) of the "Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977," surface mining and reclamation operations conducted on this lease are to conform with the requirements of this act and are subject to compliance with Office of Surface Mining regulations, or as applicable, a Utah program equivalent approved under cooperative agreement in accordance with Sec. 523(c). The United States Government does not warrant that the entire tract will be susceptible to mining.

2. The permitting of any mining operations on the lease will be subject to the possible designation of any portion of the lease as unsuitable for some or all kinds of surface mining under the regulations of the Department under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) in effect at the time of action on the mine plan permit.

3. Before undertaking activities that may disturb the surface of previously undisturbed leased lands, the Lessee may be required to conduct a cultural resource inventory of the areas to be disturbed. These studies shall be conducted by qualified professional cultural resource specialists and a report prepared itemizing the findings. A plan will then be submitted making recommendations for the protection of, or measures to be taken to mitigate impacts for identified cultural resources.

If significant cultural resources are discovered during operations under this lease, the Lessee shall immediately bring them to the attention of the authorized officer (AO) who shall evaluate or have evaluated such discoveries and, within 5 working days, shall notify the Lessee what action shall be taken with respect to such discoveries.

The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and carrying out necessary protective mitigating measures shall be borne by the Lessee.

4. Before undertaking activities that may disturb the surface of previously undisturbed leased lands, the Lessee may be required to conduct a paleontological appraisal of the areas to be disturbed. The appraisal shall be conducted by qualified paleontologists and a report prepared itemizing the findings. A plan will then be submitted making recommendations for the protection of, or measures to be taken to mitigate impacts for identified paleontological resources.

If paleontological remains (fossils) of significant scientific interest are discovered during operations under this lease, the Lessee shall immediately bring them to the attention of the AO who shall evaluate or have evaluated such discoveries brought to his attention and, within 5 working days, shall notify the Lessee what action shall be taken with respect to such discoveries. Paleontological remains of significant scientific interest do not include leaves, ferns, or dinosaur tracks commonly encountered during underground mining operations.

The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and carrying out necessary protective mitigating measures shall be borne by the Lessee. The cost of salvage of paleontological remains (fossils) shall be borne by the United States.

5. If there is reason to believe that threatened or endangered (T&E) species of plants or animals, or migratory species of high Federal interest occur in the area, the Lessee shall be required to conduct an intensive field inventory of the area to be disturbed and/or impacted. A listing of migratory birds of high Federal interest in Federal coal producing regions is published by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management Office, Washington, D.C. The inventory shall be conducted by qualified specialist and a report of findings will be prepared. A plan will be prepared making recommendations for the protection of these species or action necessary to mitigate the disturbance.

The cost of conducting the inventory, preparing reports, and carrying out necessary protective mitigating measures shall be borne by the Lessee.

6. The Lessee shall be required to perform a study to secure adequate baseline data to quantify the existing surface resources on and adjacent to the lease area. Existing data may be used if such data is adequate for the intended purposes. The study shall be adequate to locate, quantify, and demonstrate the inter-relationship of the geology, topography, surface hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife. Baseline data will be established so that future programs of observation can be incorporated at regular intervals for comparison.

7. Powerlines on the lease area used in conjunction with the mining of coal from this lease shall be constructed so as to provide adequate protection for raptors and other large birds. When feasible, powerlines will be located at least 100 yards from public roads.

8. The Lessee shall provide for the suppression and control of fugitive dust on haul roads and at coal handling and storage facilities on the lease area. The migration of road surfacing and subsurface materials into streams and water courses shall be prevented.

9. The Lessee shall be required to establish a monitoring system to locate, measure, and quantify the progressive and final effects of underground mining activities on the topographic surface, underground and surface hydrology and vegetation. The monitoring system shall utilize techniques which will provide a continuing record of change over time and an analytical method for location and measurement of a number of points over the lease area. The monitoring shall incorporate and be an extension of the baseline data.

10. Except at specifically approved locations, underground mining operations shall be conducted in such a manner so as to prevent surface subsidence that would: 1) cause the creation of hazardous conditions such as potential escarpment failure and landslides, 2) cause damage to existing surface structures, or 3) damage or alter the flow of perennial streams.

11. In order to avoid surface disturbance on steep canyon slopes and to satisfy the need for surface access, all surface breakouts for ventilation tunnels shall be constructed from inside the mine, except at specifically approved locations.

12. Support facilities, structures, equipment, and similar developments will be removed from the lease area within 2 years after the final termination of use of such facilities. This provision shall apply unless the requirement of Section 10 of the lease form is applicable. Disturbed areas and those areas occupied by such facilities will be stabilized and rehabilitated, drainages reestablished, and the areas returned to a premining land use.

13. Notwithstanding the approval of a resource recovery and protection plan by the BLM, Lessor reserves the right to seek damages against the operator/lessee in the event (I) the operator/lessee fails to achieve maximum economic recovery [as defined at 43 CFR § 3480.0-5(21)] of the recoverable coal reserves or (ii) the operator/lessee is determined to have caused a wasting of recoverable coal reserves. Damages shall be measured on the basis of the royalty that would have been payable on the wasted or unrecovered coal.

The parties recognize that under an approved R2P2, conditions may require a modification by the operator/lessee of that plan. In the event a coal bed or portion thereof is not to be mined or is rendered unminable by the operation, the operator shall submit appropriate justification to obtain approval by the AO to leave such reserves unmined. Upon approval by the AO, such coal beds or portions thereof shall not be subject to damages as described above. Further, nothing in this section shall prevent the operator/lessee from exercising its right to relinquish all or a portion of the lease as authorized by statute and regulation.

In the event the AO determines that the R2P2 as approved will not attain MER as the result of changed conditions, the AO will give proper notice to the operator/lessee as required under applicable regulations. The AO will order a modification if necessary, identifying additional reserves to be mined in order to attain MER. Upon a final administrative or judicial ruling upholding such an ordered modification, any reserves left unmined (wasted) under that plan will be subject to damages as described in the first paragraph under this section.

Subject to the right to appeal hereinafter set forth, payment of the value of the royalty on such unmined recoverable coal reserves shall become due and payable upon determination by the AO that the coal reserves have been rendered unminable or at such time that the Lessee has demonstrated an unwillingness to extract the coal.

The BLM may enforce this provision either by issuing a written decision requiring payment of the MMS demand for such royalties, or by issuing a notice of non-compliance. A decision or notice of non-compliance issued by the Lessor that payment is due under this stipulation is appealable as allowed by law.

14. WASTE CERTIFICATION: The Lessee must provide upon abandonment, transfer of operation, assignment of rights, sealing-off a mined area and prior to lease relinquishment, certification to the Lessor that, based upon a complete search of all the records for the

lease and its associated mine operation(s), and upon Lessee's and the operator's knowledge of past mining operations associated with the lease, there have been no reportable quantities of hazardous substances per 40 CFR 302.4 or used oil [*as per Utah State Administrative Code* R-*315-15*], discharged, deposited, or released within the lease, either on the surface or underground, and that all remedial actions necessary have been taken to protect human health and the environment with respect to any such substances. Lessee must additionally provide to Lessor a complete list of all hazardous substances and hazardous materials and their Chemical Abstract Services Registry Numbers, and the oil and petroleum products used or stored on, or delivered to, the lease. Such disclosure will be in addition to any other disclosure required by law or agreement.

15. UNDERGROUND INSPECTION: All safe and accessible areas shall be inspected prior to being sealed. The Lessee shall notify the AO in writing 30 days prior to the sealing of any areas in the mine and state the reason for closure. Prior to seals being put into place, the Lessee shall inspect the area and document any equipment/machinery, hazardous substances, and used oil that is to be left underground. The AO may participate in this inspection. The purpose of this inspection will be: (1) to provide documentation for compliance with 42 U.S.C. 9620 section 120(h) and Utah State Management Code R-315-15, and to assure that certification will be meaningful at the time of lease relinquishment, (2) to document the inspection with a mine map showing location of equipment/machinery (model, type of fluid, amount remaining, batteries etc.) that is proposed to be left underground. In addition, these items will be photographed at the Lessee's expense and shall be submitted to the AO as part of the certification. The abandonment of any equipment/machinery shall be on a case by case basis and shall not be accomplished unless the AO has granted a written approval. Any on-lease disposal of non-coal waste must comply with 30 CFR § 817.89.