



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Green River District  
Price Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price, UT 84501  
<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price.html>



C/007/020 Incoming  
cc: Steve C.  
Amanda  
Steve A.  
Dana  
Daron

**AUG 10 2015**

RECEIVED

AUG 12 2015

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

In Reply Refer To:  
3482 (UTG023)  
UTU-74804

Mr. Daron Haddock  
Coal Program Manager  
State of Utah, Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Re: Final Abandonment, Horizon Mine, Hidden Splendor Resources, Operator

Dear Mr. Haddock:

This letter is to review and inform the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) the status of the Horizon Mine with regards to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) responsibility to federal coal leases and reserves. A few changes have occurred at the mine site and the federal coal lease associated with the property that have implications to the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) and BLM's responsibility to manage the federal coal reserves.

First, the federal coal lease UTU-74804, with Hidden Splendor Resources as lessee, has recently been cancelled by settlement in Federal Court for being in default of lease terms and conditions. However, "relinquishment or abandonment of a federal lease shall not preclude the regulatory authority from requiring the operator/lessee to comply with the reclamation requirements of 30 CFR Chapter VII, or an approved State program" (43 CFR 3480.0-6 (d)(8)). Our requirements for conservation and protection of the coal resource under the Mineral Leasing Laws are fully incorporated into the Horizon MRP.

Second, the situation at the mine site has been in a state of flux and the BLM will need further clarification before we give any further recommendations or requirements to seal up access to the coal resource. The ventilation shaft located about 50 yards up the west side hill from the three main mine portals has been covered over and a pipe protrudes up about 8 feet from the surface as witnessed on a BLM inspection. We are unsure how this shaft is secured. Is the shaft backfilled or is there just a cap over the top that has been covered with material? Please inform us of the situation, if known, and any plans for the current work.

Our requirements for protection of the coal resource and public safety would have this shaft completely backfilled and site security (possible fencing) established around the shaft until settling of the backfill is complete before re-grading and re-seeding the side hill is started. As to the three mine portals, site security from vandalism-theft is still a problem and the current situation of blocked portal entrances is insufficient for coal resource protection, even in the interim. This must be addressed in the final sealing and reclamation work. The current situation is a danger to the public, people causing the vandalism-theft, and the remaining federal coal resources.

The BLM is committed, along with DOGM, that final reclamation of these mine entrances be timely and properly secured. The BLM will cooperate and assist in any way needed. Please inform Steve Rigby (435-636-3604) of any information regarding the ventilation shaft or the other mine openings as mentioned above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ahmed Mohsen".

Ahmed Mohsen  
Field Manager

cc: Rick Rymerson, Green River District

Roger Bankert, Utah State Office (UT-920)