0020

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501
www.ut.blm.gov

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

RECEIVED
MAR 03 2005
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

MAR 01 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3482
U-50722, SL-051279-063188
U-07064-027821, UTU-69635
(UT-070)

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
Certified Receipt No. 7003 1010 0005 2128 9809

INCOMING
C0070039

Mark Mesch
Associate Director, Mining
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
P. O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Subject: Dugout Out Mine, Pace Canyon Fan Portal Facilities Amendment C/007/039, February 2005

Dear Mr. Mesch:

BLM is commenting on the subject proposal. Our comments are as follows:

1. Coal lease UTU- 07064, Stipulation 11 states:

> "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."

It is the understanding of BLM, based on our last inspection, that the portal and the shaft will be driven from outside to the inside. The permit does not address the fact that the portal will be driven from outside to inside. At the present time, there is no Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) modification submitted for this project. This needs clarification, both in the permit and in an R2P2 modification submission.

Due to the fact that the shaft (as a minimum) will be driven from surface to the underground portion of the mine, the above lease stipulation must be approved for the proposed location. With the information in the subject material sent to BLM, the slope on the Pace Canyon Portal Facilities is approximately 57%, which is considered as a steep slope. Therefore, BLM has reviewed the proposed fan location and specifically approves the location.

2. Coal lease UTU-07064, Stipulation 4 discusses paleontological resources. BLM is not requesting that a paleontological study be performed, but the lessee should have a geologist available to confirm, or not, the discovery of any vertebrate fossil material during the course of the earth moving.

3. Figure PC-2

Comment: This figure needs to be to scale. The figure is unclear whether the fan has an evase and/or uses a silencer. Because the fan is close to a road, BLM questions if a silencer has been addressed. BLM recommends an elevation view of the construction. The drawing does not designate the diesel tank or the containment for the diesel tank. The transformers, switch gears or capacitor are not labeled. There are no utility drawings showing the approximate locations of electrical power and diesel lines. The proposal does not state if the utilities will be buried or on the surface.

4. Plate PC 7-5

Comment: This plate does not show where the transition location is of the 6" Hope culvert and the 15" culvert. Page 7-55 states, "The pipe outlet will be riprapped to prevent erosion." These statements are inconsistent.

5. Page 5-72, last paragraph.

Comment: Since the Pace Canyon intake and exhaust portals are in the lower seam and there is an in-mine connection between the two seams, the reclamation of the portal and the shaft require a discussion of any water issues with the sealing and final reclamation. A map showing the final piezometric water level should be put in the plan.

6. There is no sizing for the berm along the road inside the fence moving the water from the pad to the sediment trap. The method of installation for the berm running along the down hill side of the pad needs to be discussed. This will include compaction and materials used. Appendix 7-12, page 7-12-4, states "A berm will prevent any runoff from the fan portal site from mixing with the road drainage."

7. The gravel associated with the sediment control within the disturbed area needs to be stripped off prior to topsoil replacement for final reclamation. The gravel disposal should be in the permittee's approved waste rock disposal site.

8. Fence is not detailed anywhere in the proposal.

9. Relative to drainage of precipitation intercepting the road surface, a berm is depicted on the side of the road which parallels the east side of the disturbed area. A boulder retaining wall is depicted on the Pace Creek side of the relocated road, and this wall will extend from the north gate to the location of the discharge culvert from the sediment trap. These devices give the impression that the road surface will act as a "channel," routing all intercepted runoff through a 420-foot length of the relocated road. The intercepted flow volumes would erode the road surface in a short time, rendering it impassable. The permittee must develop a method to effectively drain the 550-foot roadway such that erosion is prevented and the road surface is maintained to the extent possible. A recommendation would be to place a dip every 100 feet

along the new road cut such that all surface flow would be directed toward the down hill side of the road. This would ensure a low level of erosion from occurring along the road during the life of the road.

10. There is a current spill control plan (PE Certification 11/26/03), but it does not include the 8000-gallon diesel tank proposed for this facility. BLM recommends that this be put into the plan.

11. There appears to be no discharge permit for the Pace Canyon area. Mine water discharge cannot take place until appropriate Federal and state laws are followed. BLM requests that the permittee place a copy of the application cover letter to the DEQ/DWQ requesting an amendment to the current UPDES permit. This would be to facilitate the two new outfalls in Pace Canyon (sediment trap and mine discharge through the air shaft).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Stan Perkes (801-539-4036).

Sincerely,

Fred O'Ferrall
for Patrick Gubbins
Field Manager

cc: USO, Chief, Branch of Solid Minerals (UT-923)