

EXPLORATION TECHNICAL MEMO

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

August 26, 2008

JK

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor *DS 08/15/08*

FROM: Stephen J. Demczak *SD by an*

RE: Notice of Intent to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration, Ark Land Company, Dugout Mine, Permit 007/039, Task ID #3037

SUMMARY:

Ark Land Company has submitted a Notice of Intent to the Division to conduct Minor Coal Exploration at the Dugout Mine. The company plans to drill two holes into the coal seam. The purpose of the exploration is coal quality and seam thickness. The applicant will remove less than 250 tons of coal.

EXPLORATION TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

COAL EXPLORATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-200.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.1; 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-400; R645-200-100; R645-200-200; R645-201-100.

Analysis:

The applicant (Ark Land Company) has submitted a Notice of Intent to Conduct Minor Coal Exploration. The drilling will take place on private surface and State coal lease (SITLA). The applicant has the necessary signed agreement/contracts from the surface landowner and SILTA.

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The applicant has submitted has given mailing address, phone number and contact person. Ark Land Company has given a description and location of the exploration drill sites.

Findings:

The applicant has met the minimum requirement of the coal rules.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MINOR COAL EXPLORATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-412; R645-201-200.

Analysis:

The applicant submitted a Notice of Intent to the Division. Since the drilling site is on Fee land and the coal lease is from SILTA.

The applicant submitted the required information in the Letter of Intent with a narrative, maps, and schedule.

Findings:

The applicant has met the minimum requirement of the coal rules.

COMPLIANCE DUTIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202.

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-100.

Analysis:

Roads

The applicant will use existing road to drill both holes. This can be seen on Figure: 2 in the Letter of Intent. Applicant plans not to construct new roads for this project. Figure: 2 show that the drill holes are on or adjacent to the existing drill holes.

Topsoil

The applicant will save or salvage 12 inches of topsoil in the pad areas. This material will be used for reclamation of the pad after drilling is completed. The drill pad will be approximately 100 feet by 100 feet.

Diversions of Overland flows and streams

The applicant will not divert water from overland flows or ephemeral, perennial, and or intermittent streams.

The applicant has submitted an application for "Temporary Change" to Division of Water Rights to use local drainages for drilling.

Hydrologic Balance

The pads will be constructed to prevent sediment from leaving the pad sites. Berms will be constructed around the pads to minimize the disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance.

Acid- or toxic forming materials

Based on existing data from in mine samples of roof and floor there is a small potential of acid or toxic forming material. The samples were taken in 2008. The applicant has stated the left over drilling cores will be covered by four feet of cover either at the drill site or Dugout refuse pile.

Findings:

The applicant has met the minimum requirement of the coal rules.

RECLAMATION STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-200.

Analysis:

Approximate original contour

The applicant will reclaim the drill pad to approximate original contour.

Revegetation

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The applicant will use native species in the immediate area. The list of species is on Page 11 of application. Priscilla Burton review list and found it acceptable.

Boreholes

The applicant will be plugged with cement and the hole above the coal seam with bentonite to the full depth. A monument marker will be placed in the top of the cement.

Facilities and Equipment

All equipment will be moved once the drilling and reclamation is finished.

Findings:

The applicant has met the minimum requirement of the coal rules.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.15;R645-203.

Analysis:

The applicant has requested that any drilling information will be confidential.

Findings:

The applicant has met the minimum requirement of the coal rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The applicant has met the minimum requirements of the Letter of Intent. This minor application is recommended for approval.