



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
 PO Box 145801
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
 801-538-5340
 801-359-3940 (Fax)
 801-538-7223 (TDD)

Michael O. Leavitt
 Governor
 Lowell P. Braxton
 Division Director

August 18, 1998

TO: Mine File

FROM: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

RE: Technical Analysis on portion of West Ridge Mine Application, West Ridge Resources Inc., West Ridge Mine, PRO/007/041, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

GENERAL

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 783.12; R645-301-411, -301-521, -301-721

Analysis:

The West Ridge Mine is located on the western escarpment of the Book Cliffs about 25 miles east of Price and 5 miles northwest of the town of East Carbon. The Book Cliffs consist of steep canyons and high mountains east of the mine site. Topographic elevations within the permit area range from 6,500 to over 8,800 feet. The highest point located above West Ridge is approximately 8,866 feet. Because of the rugged topography in the region, the present land uses are limited to wildlife habitat, rangeland and recreation. The average annual precipitation in the area of the mine site is 12-14 inches with the majority of the precipitation occurring from October to March. The mean annual air temperature is 45-47 degrees F and the average frost-free period is 80 to 120 days.

Within the permit area, all of the 2,571 acres are controlled by the BLM. There is a small area of privately owned land (surface only) in the permit area on the east side. Refer to Map 5-2.

Carbon County's zoning classification for the mine area is Mining and Grazing.

Findings:

Information provided in the plan meets the requirements of this section.

West Ridge Mine TA
PRO/007/041
August 18, 1998
Page 2

OPERATION PLAN

RELOCATION OR USE OF PUBLIC ROADS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.18; R645-301-521, -301-526

Analysis:

The C Canyon road is scheduled to be upgraded and realigned by Carbon County in order to provide permanent and unrestricted access to State school trust lands and Federal public lands for multiple-use activities. On March 25, 1998 the Division completed a separate analysis (letter to Mine Permit File from Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director) in regard to "Permitting of Roads". The analysis indicates that during operation of the West Ridge Mine, the C Canyon Road will remain a public road, allowing access by multiple purpose users up to a public turnaround area within the proposed mine surface facilities area. The C Canyon Road is found under this analysis to be exempt from regulation according to the State of Utah Coal Mining Rules, R645, et seq. and the UDOGM July 3, 1995 policy on roads. The road within the disturbed area boundary of the mine and mine roads beyond the public turnaround area and will be permitted and maintained by the coal mining company, Andalex, (the Permittee).

Findings:

Information provided in the plan meets the requirements of this section. For detailed analysis and findings see March 25, 1998 Letter to file from Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director.

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-732

Analysis:

The primary access and haulage route to and from the mine will be the C Canyon County road, which is a public road under the jurisdiction of Carbon County. Carbon County has provided authorization to Andalex Resources to construct their mining facilities within 100 feet of the C Canyon road and also maintain approximately 1000 feet of the road as part of the mining

West Ridge Mine TA
PRO/007/041
August 18, 1998
Page 3

operation. The application states, "Approximately 1,000 feet of the northern end of the Carbon County road will extend into the minesite disturbed area. The road will terminate at the junction of the truck loop. A turn around will be constructed at this terminus to give public vehicles an opportunity to turn around without having to drive through the mine yard. This 1,000 foot long segment of the public road, from the terminus of the road at the truck loop junction to just below the office at the southern end of the disturbed area, will be included within the permit area of the West Ridge mine. Carbon County will allow special mine-related utilization of this segment of the road, such as the ability to operate mine vehicles thereon. In return, WEST RIDGE Resources, Inc. will be responsible for maintenance along this road segment, including maintenance of drainage ditches and culverts. Runoff from this road surface will be treated according to the mine's sedimentation and drainage control plan, as presented in Appendix 7-4. Refer to Figure 5-3 West Ridge Road - Typical Cross-Section for the typical engineering cross-section of the Carbon County road."

An Analysis and Finding for the C Canyon Road were previously done on March 25, 1998 (See letter to file from Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director, Mining). The analysis determined that the C Canyon road leading from County Road 123 up to the proposed West Ridge Mine disturbed area boundary is exempt from regulation under the Utah Coal Regulatory Program and that section of road inside the disturbed area boundary will be permitted.

The application also states that, "There are no plans for the construction of primary or ancillary roads in the permit area." This seems to be a contradictory statement since the surface facilities map shows other segments of roads extending beyond the public road within the disturbed area boundary (truck loop and road to portal area). These roads must be classified, and if they are primary roads the designs will require certification by a registered professional engineer.

Findings:

Information provided in the application is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to final approval, the Permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-301-512.200 & R645-301-534, classification and designs for all roads to be used within the permit area. Designs for primary roads will need to be certified by a registered professional engineer.

West Ridge Mine TA
PRO/007/041
August 18, 1998
Page 4

RECLAMATION PLAN

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: R645-100-200, -301-513, -301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-537, -301-732.

Analysis:

The C Canyon County road will be retained as part of the postmining land use. The road will terminate at a public turnaround and will serve as permanent access to public lands in the area.. All other roads built by the mine will be removed and the area reclaimed according to the approved reclamation plan.

Findings:

Information provided in the plan meets the requirements of this section.