



**WEST RIDGE** RESOURCES, INC.

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*orig -> file OK*  
*cc Daron*  
*Gregg +*  
*West Ridge team*  
*MAN*  
 POST: Mining Board.

Mary Ann Wright  
 Associate Director, Mining  
 Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
 1594 West Temple, Suite 1201  
 P.O. Box 145801  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

*Incoming*  
*4/007/04/*

Dear Mary Ann:

On March 25, 2002, the Department of Interior approved the mine plan for the West Ridge mine to enter upon the newly acquired Whitmore federal lease. This approval has allowed us to proceed on schedule with our longwall development, without interruption and without delay. As you know, the ability to maintain a coordinated mine development schedule is an absolutely crucial element in the success of a large-scale longwall operation such as the West Ridge mine.

The purpose of this letter is to express our sincere gratitude to you and the DOGM review team that worked on the mine plan approval for this lease. From the time we first approached the Division with the importance of this mine plan approval, it was quite apparent that you and your staff fully understood and appreciated the urgency we faced. Everyone on the team had positive suggestions on how the permit process could best be accomplished in the limited time available. Working with your staff, we were able to establish realistic scheduling milestones, and everyone worked quite diligently in holding up their end of the review process. As a result, the permit was issued in a very timely manner, and the miners were able to move onto the lease with one week to spare!

On behalf of all the employees at the West Ridge mine, I wish to say a sincere thanks to you, Daron, and the rest of the review team for the extra effort and consideration extended to us in this permitting process which was so critical to our operation.

Sincerely,

*Dave Shaver*  
 Dave Shaver  
 Manager, Technical Services

cc: Lowell Braxton