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February 20, 2003

Utah Coal Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Incoming
C/007/041
OK

**Re: Highwall DO Extension Request, West Ridge Mine,
Permit C007/041**

Dear Sirs:

WEST RIDGE Resources, Inc. is requesting an extension of the response date to the Division Order pertaining to the HighWall at West Ridge Mine. Attached is a letter by Jim Cremeens of Agapito and Associates explaining problems with the lab results. Dan Guy and Patrick Collins are also to some extent are waiting for Agapito's report. We are asking the response date be extended to March 14.

Thank you for your consideration and please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gary/E. Gray
Engineer/Agent

RECEIVED
FEB 21 2003
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Gary Gray
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 1077
Price, UT 84501

Re: Request for Extension of Due Date

Gary,

Agapito Associates, Inc. (AAI) is requesting an extension of the due date for the report concerning reclamation design for the portal highwall. This extension is being requested because the laboratory testing took longer than anticipated. The laboratory schedule was partly the cause for the delays. Also, additional tests were required to characterize the topsoil and residual soil. AAI is requesting a revised due date of March 14, 2003.

The topsoil and residual soil will not be compacted. The residual soil is modeled as the surficial material above the highwall. It will not be disturbed, because it is not part of the highwall backfill. The topsoil will be used for the surficial rooting zone layer on the reclaimed slope. The topsoil will not be compacted, and will be supported by a wrapped geogrid face.

Determination of the shear strengths of these materials will be accomplished by direct shear testing. Direct shear tests in soils are conducted at specific unit weights (densities) and moisture contents, as determined by the engineer. AAI's initial attempt at estimating these parameters involved applying a very conservative unit weight (90 pcf), and using a moisture content equal to published values of porosities for the material types (30% to 34%). However, when these parameters were applied to the soils, the materials developed a liquid consistency, which could not be tested in direct shear. Our second approach was to have the laboratory conduct Standard Proctor Compaction tests on the materials, which yields the optimum density and moisture content for a material, with respect to compaction. AAI received the data from the Proctor Tests on February 20, 2003. Again, taking a conservative approach, AAI will recommend direct shear test parameters of 90% of optimum density, and plus 2% of optimum moisture content.

The direct shear tests are expected to be completed by February 28th. AAI can complete the analysis and the report by March 14, 2003, providing there are no further delays from the laboratory.

Best regards,
Jim Cremeens
Senior Engineer