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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:
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(UT-070)

APR 28 2003

Daron Haddock
Permit Supervisor
State of Utah
Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple Street, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

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Re: Penta Creek Fee Property Addition, West Ridge Resources, Inc., West Ridge Mine, C/015/032

Dear Mr. Haddock:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received and reviewed the subject mine plan amendment. This letter documents the Bureau's finding for this amendment with regards to the laws governing the Federal coal lease and the public lands.

The proposed amendment adds a small acreage of land to the mine permit area in the southeast portion of the property. This land is held in private ownership both to the minerals and surface rights. An agreement has been reached between the mine owner and the property owner to allow mining across the boundary. In the proposed mining plan, West Ridge intends to extend planned longwall mining panels into the new property. This plan was disclosed earlier when West Ridge did not have control of this property. The mining plan as originally submitted showed two different mining scenarios; one if the Penta Creek property was not added and one if the property was added. With the property now under West Ridge control, longwall panels will extend from the Federal coal into this new area. Overall recovery of the Federal coal will be increased, as coal property barrier pillars adjacent to this new property will no longer be needed. Though the BLM has no consent to adding this fee property to the permit area, we support the action, as it will increase recovery of the existing Federal coal lease.

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DIVISION OF OIL GAS AND MINING

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The current resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) addresses mining in the proposed fee property addition. The R2P2 is still complete and in conformance with the mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3482, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve maximum economic recovery.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk in the Price Field Office at (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,



James F. Kohler
Branch Chief, Solid Minerals

cc: Office of Surface Mining
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-5733
Price Field Office, case file
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 1077
Price, Utah 84501