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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
www.ut.blm.gov

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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:
3482
SL-068754
UTU-78562
(UT-923)

Accounting
2/007/041
For PFO

Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested
Certificate No.

Mr. John C. Lewis
Mining Engineer
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 1077
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Minor Modification, Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), Longwall Panel # 4, West Ridge Mine

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from West Ridge Resources on August 7, 2003, a proposed change to the subject R2P2. The modification plans to shorten # 4 longwall panel on the southeast side due to a fault trending on an oblique angle to the longwall panel. The proposal is located on Federal leases SL-068754 and UTU-78562.

West Ridge proposes to mine the longwall set up entries between 5th and 4th Right gateroads at crosscut # 54 in 5th Right. This is about 1100 feet shorter than the previously approved plan which called for the #4 longwall panel set up rooms to be mined to the edge of the one foot thick rock split (projected at crosscut 60) in the back of the panel. West Ridge reports a fault of over 5 feet of displacement was encountered at crosscut 53 in the 5th Right gate entries. The fault trends about 15 degrees off 5th Right's heading and was encountered again in the bleeder entries at the end of the planned panel. West Ridge requests not to mine with the longwall through this fault area for a number of reasons; (1) high methane and H2S concentrations in the fault, (2) the throw of the fault (5 feet) would force the longwall shear to cut substantial rock to grade over the fault, (3) extreme hardness of roof and floor rock causing increased equipment wear and spark ignition, (4) reduced time frames for future longwall development, (5) and significant mining delays reducing longwall productivity and increasing costs.

The BLM has inspected the area in question on a number of occasions (March 28, June 26 and July 15, 2003) and has verified the location and extent of the fault. On the first inspection after encountering the fault, a H2S gas reading was also witnessed and elevated levels of H2S gas just below mandatory work curtailment were recorded.

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The BLM agrees that the longwall cannot be mined through this fault zone from crosscut 60 through 54 in 5th Right. The reasons are numerous and compelling. With the fault trending near parallel with the panel gates, the shear would have to grade through roof and floor rock on each shear pass. The floor and the roof rocks of the Sunnyside seam are extremely competent and hard sandstones and siltstones. Longwall shear passes grading through the fault zone make for high spark and ignition sources. This fact in conjunction with the high probability of methane and H₂S gas in the fault zone, makes for an unacceptable risk for fire and/or explosions. Coal quality will be marginal from the rock cut by the shear and productivity will be diminished to grade through the fault. The combination of these problems makes longwall mining through this fault area not physically or economically possible.

Recovery of this coal by continuous miners is also not possible. Access would have to be from a two-entry gate road with associated ventilation restrictions. Continuous miners would still have to cross the fault for much of the coal and run the same risks and the longwall shear. Also, any **unscheduled mining with the continuous miner would affect longwall development timing for future longwall panels.** We therefore agree that the coal between crosscut 54 and the back end of the panel is unrecoverable, about 280,000 tons of coal is no longer recoverable.

West Ridge's proposed change to the R2P2 complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and will achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal. West Ridge is authorized to begin longwall extraction at crosscut 54 at the 5th Right headgate entry. This confirms a previous verbal approval of the proposed change. A copy of the approved mine map also showing the geologic features is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (435) 636-3600, or Jeff McKenzie at (801) 539-4038.

Sincerely,

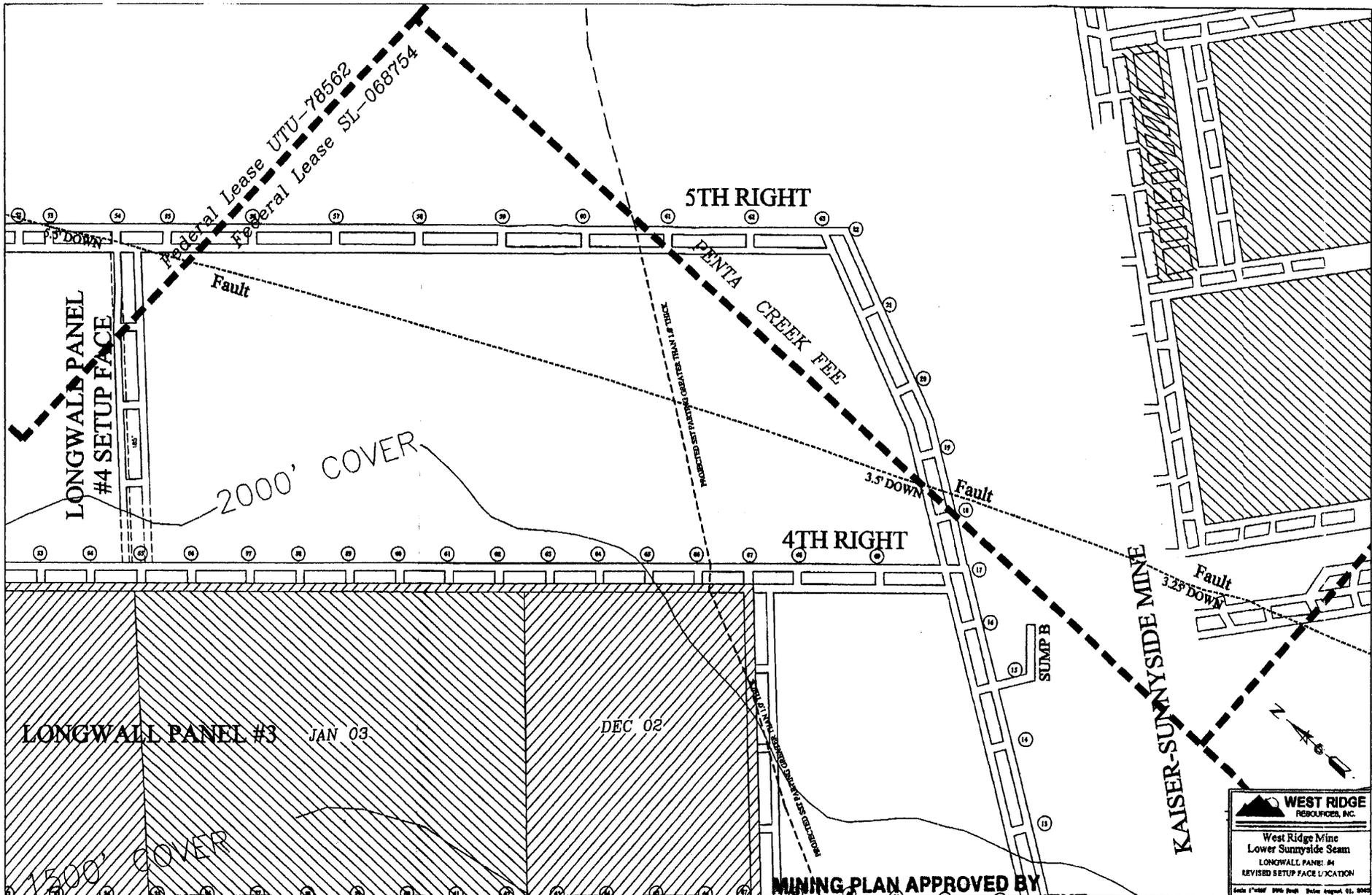


James Kohler
Chief, Solid Minerals

Enclosure
Approved Mine Map

cc:
Price Field Office, Utah (UT-920) (w/ encl.)

Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801 (w/encl.)



WEST RIDGE RESOURCES, INC.
 West Ridge Mine
 Lower Sunnyside Seam
 LONGWALL PANEL #4
 REVISED SETUP FACE LOCATION
Scale 1"=600' 2000 Feet Date August 01, 2002

MINING PLAN APPROVED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By:
[Signature] 20 Oct. 2003
 Mining Engineer (Date)

Approved By:
[Signature] 12 Nov. 2003
 Manager (Date)