

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

June 17, 2004

OK

TO: Internal File

FROM: Gregg A. Galecki, Team Lead 

RE: IBC- Penta Creek Fee Lease , West Ridge Resources, Inc., West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041, Task ID #1942

SUMMARY:

On June 4, 2004, the Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining (Division) received an Incidental Boundary Change (IBC) for the West Ridge Mine from West Ridge Resources, Inc. The IBC, comprising of 50.0 acres, is located in the Penta Creek Lease area. The IBC is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Lot 3 and all of Lot 4 of Section 7, T14S, R14W. The additional 50.0 acres of the Penta Creek Fee Lease IBC constitutes approximately a 1 percent increase of the West Ridge permit area. The additional underground acreage is for underground mining only and does not affect the disturbed area acreage. No additional surface facilities are proposed. The proposed additional mining will take place beneath 2,000 feet of cover. Surface effects such as subsidence and effects to the hydrologic regime are anticipated to be negligible, however Grassy Trail Reservoir is located within 400 feet of the anticipated subsidence angle of draw. The following review addresses the geologic section of the regulations only. The geologic information provided in the currently approved Mine and Reclamation Plan (MRP) does not adequately addresses the minimum requirements of the regulations; additional information is requested.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

Analysis:

As mining approaches Grassy Trail Creek Reservoir, additional information is requested to evaluate the geology on a more regional scale. Map 6-1 – Regional Geology Map does not provide adequate information concerning mapped faulting on a larger scale. As an example, the Sunnyside fault is described in text but not identified on Map 6-1. Page 6-13 of the MRP indicates Doelling (1973) had inferred some faults in the C Canyon area that are not on the map. Also, Appendix 6-3, indicates a study was conducted to observe fault and jointing patterns. The letter indicates no significant faults were observed in B or C Canyons, but gives no other information relative to jointing or other faults. Specifically, Map 6-1 illustrates two (2) E-W faults in Section 6 T14S, R14E, and a NW-SE trending fault in Sections 19 and 30, T14S R14E. The Division requests that a geology map be provided that is at a larger scale: 1) expanded to give an indication of a more regional trend; 2) provide any relevant geologic mapping from the neighboring Sunnyside Mine; and 3) provides any updated geologic mapping of faults. Also, if observations indicated structure within the mine is significantly controlled by joint patterns, the information needs to be provided in text. The information is being requested to support an evaluation of potential impacts to Grassy Trail Reservoir.

Findings:

The information provided does not adequately address the minimum requirements of the Environmental Resources – Geologic Resource Information section of the regulations. Prior to approval, information must be provided in accordance with:

R645-624.100, Provide the additional geologic information, both in text and on Map 6-1 as outlined above.

OPERATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Affected Area Maps

All maps showing the permit boundary need to be updated to include the Penta Creek IBC. Selected maps have been included in the IBC, however all maps within the plan showing the permit boundary need to be updated as well.

Findings:

The information provided does not adequately address the minimum requirements of the Operation Plan – Maps, Plans, and Cross Sections of Mining Operations section of the regulations. Provide information in accordance with the following:

R645-521.100, All maps within the MRP showing the permit boundary need to be updated to include the Penta Creek IBC; only a portion of the maps were submitted in the IBC application.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The above-cited deficiencies need to be addressed prior to incorporation into the currently approved plan is recommended.