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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
P.O. Box 46667
Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

UT-0079

September 19, 2005

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

J. Searcy
C/007/0041

RE: West Ridge Resources, Inc. "West Ridge" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision,
Longwall Panel 7, Task ID No 2328

Dear Sir or Madam:

This in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) September 16, 2005, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Longwall Panel 7, has determined that it proposes to fully extract coal from longwall panel 7 contingent upon the results of the Grassy Trail Reservoir Dam Study at the West Ridge Mine, Utah State permit C/007/041.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Longwall Panel 7, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the September 16, 2005 request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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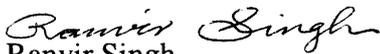
In an electronic transmittal dated September 19, 2005, the U.S. Forest service stated it had no comments or concerns with the permit revision.

In an electronic transmittal dated September 19, 2005, the Bureau of Land Management stated in its opinion the permit revision did not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,


Ranvir Singh
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division