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State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

May 14, 2007

Mr. Dave Shaver, West Ridge Mine
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
794 North "C" Canyon Road
P.O. Box 1077
East Carbon, UT 84520

Handwritten signature: Sharon G. G. 5/10/07/0041

Subject: UPDES Inspection & Meeting- West Ridge Mine (UT0025640).

Dear Mr. Shaver:

On May 10, 2007 I met with you and conducted a reconnaissance inspection in regards to the West Ridge Mine and UPDES Permit No. UT0025640. Specifically we discussed your facility's investigative efforts thus far regarding the recent Total Iron permit exceedences. While there, I also observed the sediment ponds, outfall locations, mine water discharge and receiving waters, for which there were no deficiencies noted.

I appreciated your time to facilitate the meeting and inspection. Please continue to keep me informed of your investigative efforts. Enclosed is a copy of the inspection reports for your records. If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 538-6779 or by e-mail at jstudenka@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature: Jeff Studenka

Jeff Studenka, Environmental Scientist
UPDES Permits IES Section

Enclosures

cc (w/encl): Jennifer Meints, EPA Region VIII
Claron Bjork, SE District Health Department
Dave Ariotti, SE District Engineer
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil Gas & Mines

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INSPECTION PROTOCOL

UPDES Permit #: UT0025640 - West Ridge Mine
Inspection Type: Reconnaissance Inspection
Inspection Date: May 10, 2007

Jeff Studenka of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and Steve Fluke of the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining met with Dave Shaver and David Hibbs of UtahAmerican Energy, Inc., West Ridge Mine (West Ridge) and Karla Knoop, JBR Consultant. The purpose for the site visit was to discuss the recent Total Iron exceedences in the mine water discharge and to perform a reconnaissance inspection.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Location: 794 North "C" Canyon Road, near East Carbon, Utah

Coordinates: Outfall 001 – 39° 36' 45" North latitude, 110° 26' 26" West longitude
Outfall 002 – 39° 36' 58" North latitude, 110° 26' 10" West longitude

Average Flow: ~ 0.8 MGD (Outfall 002, mine water discharge)

Receiving water: "C" Canyon Ephemeral Drainage → Grassy Trail Creek

Process: Underground coal mining operation utilizing long-wall technology. Water from the mine is conveyed to a below ground collection area, where it is then continuously pumped out of the mine and discharged to the surface via Outfall 002. Surface water runoff is conveyed to an above ground settling pond system with a single discharge point (Outfall 001). Outfall 001 has not discharged to date.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

There were no deficiencies noted during the last inspection for follow up. An overview of the underground water distribution system and the investigative efforts thus far by West Ridge were presented. The DMR data was reviewed as well as the EPA Enforcement Policy. The reconnaissance inspection was limited to outside the mine where the water collection and distribution systems are exposed. The two outfall locations were observed as well as the receiving waters of "C" Canyon Drainage. At the time of the inspection, the mine water discharge was the only flow in "C" Canyon and the discharge was not observed downstream in Grassy Trail Creek, which was also dry.

DEFICIENCIES

No deficiencies were noted during the inspection.

REQUIREMENTS

None.