

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

February 12, 2009

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DH*

FROM: Ingrid Wieser, Lead *IW*

RE: Technical Field Visit, Coal Fines Discharge site (NOV # 10033), West Ridge Resources Inc., West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041

Other Attendees: Dave Shaver (West Ridge Resources Inc.), Shane Campbell (Scamp Excavation), Karla Knoop (JBR Consultants), Joe Helfrich (DOGM), Steve Christensen (DOGM)

Date & Time: February 10, 2009, 9:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

PURPOSE:

To assess the extent of the coal fines discharge to the stream and to help the Permittee develop a clean-up plan.

OBSERVATIONS:

Dave Shaver explained the background of where the water containing coal fines is discharged from, the plan to avoid discharging coal fines as well as the plan to clean up the previously discharged coal fines. Currently, the water encountered in the mine workings is being pumped into the SW portion of the mine that has been sealed. The water is then pumped from there (after it has filtered through remaining rock) into the ephemeral streambed below the mine. The mining personnel are currently working to divert the water into a different part of the sealed mine workings to hopefully increase the filtration time before it is pumped into the streambed. Eventually, (Between April and July) the water will be pumped into the SE section of the mine after the last panel is removed, a small dam is installed and the section is sealed.

Dave Shaver had proposed to clean up the fines using a series of catchment basins and a team of people with brooms to "sweep" the fines down stream into the basins where they would

then be removed with machinery. If this is not effective enough, a series of sediment ponds will be installed further down stream. Basin A is proposed to be completed by next week, and the others will all be approved by the BLM within two weeks pending SHPO concurrence of archaeological survey commitments. The BLM is currently supporting a "passive" approach to the clean-up and does not want the Permittee to use crews and brooms in the stream bed.

We observed the coal fines at four points along the stream. The first observation point was located where the mine water is discharged from the mine workings into the ephemeral streambed. At this point there was a considerable amount of coal fines in the streambed and on the banks of the stream. The fines were about 1" + deep and appeared as a heavy mud like substance. This amount of fines continued for a good distance down stream from the discharge point. We tested the effectiveness of the brooms by trying to dislodge the coal fines into the stream current. The brooms were somewhat effective at removing the fines, but we concluded that a much sturdier, shorter bristled broom would be more effective.

The second point of observation was at proposed catchment basin "A". This site was approximately ½ mile from the discharge point and, according to Dave Shaver, has been approved by the BLM for immediate construction. The site still had a considerable amount of coal fines but were only about ½" deep. Shane Campbell had installed a small dam with boulders and excelsior logs about a month prior to the site visit. Sediment and coal fines had already filled in behind the small dam to a depth of about 2 feet.

The final observation point was located at proposed catchment basin "E". The coal fines were still present but appeared to only cover a thin layer on the banks of the stream.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Dave will submit the final clean up plan to the Division as the abatement plan. The Division will view the plan as a short-term abatement plan, with all major items to be approved by the landowner (BLM or SITLA). The Division will permit the clean up area if the catchments and/ or sediment ponds need to be in place for a long period of time (approximately greater than 1 year). Dave has proposed that the cleanup will be done by the fall of 2009 as long as an active approach is approved. The Division will meet with the BLM next week to discuss the passive or active approach to the cleanup. The active approach appears to be more effective due to the nature of the coal fines and the short time allowed in the abatement period.