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State of Utah

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Governor

GREG BELL  
Lieutenant Governor

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Amanda Smith  
Executive Director

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

4007/041 Incoming  
cc: Ingrid  
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Steve D

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Executive Secretary

July 28, 2010

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**(Return Receipt Requested)**

Mr. David Hibbs, President & CEO  
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. (UEI)  
West Ridge Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 910  
East Carbon, UT 84520

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

Subject: Notice of Violation and Order, Docket No. I10-02, UPDES Permit No. UT0025640  
West Ridge Resources, Inc., West Ridge Mine.

Enclosed is the Notice of Violation and Order (Order), Docket Number I10-02, issued to you by the Utah Water Quality Board and Division of Water Quality (DWQ). This Order has been issued in response to the excessive coal fines in "C" Canyon Drainage as observed by DWQ on July 14, 2010, as well as violations of the total iron effluent limitation requirement of your UPDES Permit for the above referenced facility.

A response is required within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this Order. After receiving your response, DWQ will contact you with a proposed settlement agreement or to arrange a settlement meeting. Your cooperation with resolving this matter in a timely fashion is imperative.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything related to the Order, please contact Jeff Studenka of this office at (801) 536-4395, or by e-mail at [jstudenka@utah.gov](mailto:jstudenka@utah.gov).

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board

Walter L. Baker, P.E.  
Executive Secretary

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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WLB: JAS: mc

Enclosure

cc (w/ encl.):  
Amanda Smith, Department of Environmental Quality  
Laura Lockhart, Office of Attorney General  
Stephanie Gieck, EPA Region VIII  
Claron Bjork, SE Utah District Health Department  
Dave Ariotti, DEQ SE District Engineer  
Daron Haddock, Division of Oil Gas & Mines  
Dave Shaver, UEI West Ridge Mine

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**IN THE MATTER OF  
WEST RIDGE RESOURCES, INC.  
794 North "C" Canyon Road, PO Box 910  
East Carbon, Utah 84520**

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND  
COMPLIANCE ORDER**

**DOCKET NUMBER I10-02**

**A. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

This **NOTICE OF VIOLATION and COMPLIANCE ORDER (NOV/CO)** is issued by the **UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD (the BOARD)** under the Utah Water Quality Act, as amended, Utah Code Ann. §§ 19-5-101 to 19-5-123 (the **ACT**), including Utah Code Ann. §§ 19-5-104, 19-5-106, 19-5-111 and 19-5-115. This **NOV/CO** is also issued in accordance with the Utah Administrative Procedures Act, Utah Code Ann. §§ 63-46b-0.5 to 63-46b-23. The **BOARD** has delegated to the Executive Secretary of the **BOARD (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY)** authority to issue such **NOTICES AND ORDERS** in accordance with 19-5-106(8) of the Utah Code.

**B. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

1. It is unlawful for any person to discharge a pollutant into waters of the state or to cause pollution which constitutes a menace to public health and welfare, or is harmful to wildlife, fish or aquatic life, or impairs domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, or other beneficial uses of water, or placing or causing to be placed any wastes in a location where there is probable cause to believe that it will cause pollution, per Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107(1)(a). Waters of the State means "all streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and all other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial, public or private, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon this state or any portion of the state.", per Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-102(18)(a).
2. It is unlawful for any person to make any discharge not authorized under an existing valid discharge permit, Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107(3)(a).
3. Utah Administrative Code R 317-8-4.1(1)(a) requires compliance with all conditions of said permit cited below and states that any permit noncompliance is a violation of the **Act** and is therefore grounds for enforcement action.
4. Part I.C. of the **WEST RIDGE RESOURCES, INC.** Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) permit # UT0025640 requires compliance with the Narrative Standard for

water quality and states:

*“It shall be unlawful, and a violation of this permit, for the permittee to discharge or place any waste or other substance in such a way as will be or may become offensive such as unnatural deposits, floating debris, oil, scum or other nuisances such as color, odor or taste, or cause conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life or which produce objectionable tastes in edible aquatic organisms; or result in concentrations or combinations of substances which produce undesirable physiological responses in desirable resident fish, or other desirable aquatic life, or undesirable human health effects, as determined by bioassay or other tests performed in accordance with standard procedures.”*

5. Part I.D. of the **WEST RIDGE RESOURCES, INC.** UPDES permit # UT0025640 requires monthly monitoring of effluent flows, total suspended solids (TSS), total iron, oil & grease, pH, and total dissolved solids (TDS). Effluent concentrations shall comply with the following provisions:

- a. TSS monthly average shall not exceed 25 mg/L.
- b. TSS weekly average shall not exceed 35 mg/L.
- c. TSS daily maximum shall not exceed 70 mg/L.
- d. Total iron daily maximum shall not exceed 1.3 mg/L.
- e. Oil & grease daily maximum shall not exceed 10 mg/L.
- f. The pH daily minimum shall not be less than 6.5 standard units.
- g. The pH daily maximum shall not be more than 9.0 standard units.
- h. TDS daily maximum shall not exceed 2000 mg/L.

### **C. FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. **WEST RIDGE RESOURCES, INC.** (hereinafter **WEST RIDGE**) owns and operates a bituminous coal underground mining facility located northwest of East Carbon City, in Carbon County, Utah.
2. **WEST RIDGE** was issued UPDES Permit # UT0025640 on May 1, 2006 that was subsequently modified on August 15, 2007, which allows and controls discharge from the industrial facility.
3. “C” Canyon Drainage, beginning at the **WEST RIDGE** outfall 002 location and continuing downstream toward Grassy Trail Creek, was observed on July 14, 2010 to contain significant amounts of coal fines deposited along the stream channel edges.
4. Effluent samples not meeting the requirements of UPDES Permit # UT0025640, as reported by **WEST RIDGE** on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for outfall 002, are summarized in the following table:

Month & Year	Total Iron (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)
January 2010	1.438	no exceedence
February 2010	no exceedence	no exceedence
March 2010	1.638	31
April 2010	1.504	no exceedence
May 2010	1.546	no exceedence
June 2010	no exceedence	no exceedence

#### **D. VIOLATIONS**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, **WEST RIDGE** has violated the following:

1. Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107(1)(a) for discharging "...a pollutant into waters of the state or to cause pollution which constitutes a menace to public health and welfare, or is harmful to wildlife, fish or aquatic life, or impairs domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, or other beneficial uses of water, or placing or causing to be placed any wastes in a location where there is probable cause to believe that it will cause pollution.", as described further in the Applicable Statutory and Regulatory Provisions, paragraph B.1 and in the Findings of Fact, paragraph C.4.
2. Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107(3)(a), Utah Administrative Code R 317-8-4.1 (1)(a), and Part I.C of UPDES Permit # UT0025640 for violation of the Narrative Standard for water quality. The Narrative Standard states: "It shall be unlawful, and a violation of this permit, for the permittee to discharge or place any waste or other substance in such a way as will be or may become offensive such as unnatural deposits, floating debris, oil, scum or other nuisances such as color, odor or taste, or cause conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life or which produce objectionable tastes in edible aquatic organisms; or result in concentrations or combinations of substances which produce undesirable physiological responses in desirable resident fish, or other desirable aquatic life, or undesirable human health effects...", as described further in the Applicable Statutory and Regulatory Provisions, paragraph B.4 and in the Findings of Fact, paragraph C.3.
3. Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107(3)(a), Utah Administrative Code R 317-8-4.1 (1)(a), and Part I.D of UPDES Permit # UT0025640 for violations of effluent discharge limits as listed and described further in the Applicable Statutory and Regulatory Provisions, paragraph B.5 and in the Findings of Fact, paragraph C.4.

#### **E. ORDER**

Any compliance schedules submitted by the *violator* as required by this Order must be submitted by the deadlines established in this Order and approved by the Executive Secretary. Once compliance

schedules are approved by the Executive Secretary, the compliance schedule must be implemented according to the deadlines and requirements established in the compliance schedule(s) and/or this Order. Once approved, timeframes and requirements of any compliance schedule become binding on the *violator*.

Based on the foregoing **FINDINGS OF FACT** and **VIOLATIONS**, and pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-107 and 19-5-111, **WEST RIDGE** is hereby **ORDERED** to:

1. Immediately initiate all action required to come into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Utah Water Quality Act, the Water Quality rules in the Utah Administrative Code, and UPDES permit # UT0025640.
2. Submit to the **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**, within 30 days of receipt of this NOV/CO, a report which includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. An account of the conditions and events leading up to, and surrounding the un-permitted discharges described above,
  - b. Actions taken to remedy the situation surrounding the un-permitted discharges, and precautions taken to prevent future releases,
  - c. The current condition and status of the discharge and water body,
  - d. Any documented or reported damages to the water body, wildlife, or beneficial uses thereof,
  - e. Report any un-permitted discharges not identified above,
  - f. A plan to remediate any residual contaminants or damage from the spill, if any such exist.

#### F. NOTICE

This **NOV/CO** is effective immediately. **WEST RIDGE** may contest this **NOV/CO** by submitting a Request for Agency Action in writing as specified in Utah Administrative Code R 317-8-3. Any such Request must be received by the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the **NOV/CO**'s issuance or the **NOV/CO** shall become final.

Compliance with the provisions of this **ORDER** is mandatory. The information requested will be considered in the evaluation of the extent of your compliance with the Water Quality Act and its underlying regulations and permit. Failure to respond fully and truthfully, or to adequately justify such failure to respond, may subject **WEST RIDGE** to further civil penalties or criminal fines under Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-115.

All reports required under the Permit must be accompanied by the following certification, which is to be signed in accordance with Utah Administrative Code R 317-8-3.4(4): "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate

the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine or imprisonment for knowing violations.”

Utah Code Ann. § 19-5-115 provides that violation of the ACT or a related order may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day of violation. Under certain circumstances of willfulness or gross negligence, violators may be fined up to \$25,000 per day of violation.

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

Utah Water Quality Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter L. Baker', written over a horizontal line.

Walter L. Baker, P. E.  
Executive Secretary

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