

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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September 15, 2010

*DOH*

TO: Internal File

THRU: Ingrid Campbell, Biologist and Team Lead *IC*

FROM: James Owen, Reclamation Engineer *JO*

RE: Incidental Boundary Change, West Ridge Resources, INC., West Ridge Mine, C0070041, Task #3608

## SUMMARY:

On August 30, 2010 the Utah Division of Oil Gas & Mining received an application from West Ridge Resources for an Incidental Boundary Change (IBC). The IBC is to allow mining within a small area of a newly acquired Penta Creek Fee Lease Extension. The purpose of the IBC is to allow the main entries to be squared off before the section equipment is pulled out. Map 5-4 (Mining Projections, Extended Reserves) also indicates that the IBC area will be used to access coal resources in the future. The IBC will increase the permit area by 20.3 acres. All mining within the IBC will be development mining.

The applicant states that there will be no full-extraction mining associated with the IBC and that all mining associated with the IBC will be beneath 3000 feet of cover, resulting in no surface disturbance associated with the IBC.

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**TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:**

**OPERATION PLAN**

**SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

**Analysis:**

**Subsidence Control Plan**

The application included a Subsidence Map (Map 5-7) that indicates the expected extents of possible subsidence areas. Subsidence is not a likely possibility due to the fact that the IBC will be associated only with developmental mining. The nearest existing photogrammetric control point is approximately 5,500 feet away from the IBC. The nearest future photogrammetric control point will be approximately 3,500 feet from the IBC.

**Findings:**

The IBC will not have a significant variance, in terms of subsidence, from the rest of the permit area. Therefore, the subsidence control plan is sufficient to accommodate the IBC.

**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:**

The application includes maps with the following information: IBC definition, permit area, lease locations, regional soils, general vegetation, wildlife details, land use, archeology, surface ownership, sub-surface ownership, mining projections, mining projections for extended reserves, subsidence, regional geology, coal seam structure, coal seam isopachs, water rights, seep/spring details, hydrologic monitoring details, and operational monitoring locations.

**Findings:**

The submitted application is adequate in terms of maps providing details of resource and operational information that are relevant to the IBC. In addition, a registered professional engineer has certified all maps.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This amendment complies with the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules and is recommended for approval.

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