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**United States Department of the Interior**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Green River District, Price Field Office

125 South 600 West

Price, UT 84501

Phone: (435) 636-3600 Fax: (435) 636-3657

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3482 (UTG023)

SL-068754

UTU-78562

JUN 17 2011

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2011

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

CERTIFIED MAIL--7010-1870-0002-7017-3934

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED:

Mr. David Hibbs

President

Utah American Energy, INC.

P.O. Box 910

East Carbon, Utah 84520

**Re: Minor Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan, Longwall Panel # 23, West Ridge Mine, Utah American Energy, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from Utah American Energy, Inc. (UEI), a minor modification to the approved resource recovery and protection plan (R2P2) on May 25, 2011, to add an additional longwall panel (long-wall panel # 23) at the subject mine. Successful mining of previous longwall panels at depth using panel-barrier design and the acquisition of State of Utah coal lands are reasons for UEI to modify the R2P2. The area of the mine where this additional longwall panel is proposed is partially on the northeast corner of Federal coal lease UTU-78562 with the majority of the longwall panel on State of Utah coal lease ML-51744.

**Proposed Plan:** UEI proposes to mine an additional longwall panel on the northwest side of the Main Entries. This longwall panel will be developed with two sets of two entry development gate roads, on the tailgate side, as well as a standard head gate two entry development system. The two sets of tailgate entries would be separate entries used for ventilation bleeders and tailgate return entries. This proposed longwall panel (numbered # 23 from previously approved panel sequencing but also numbered # 18 in numerically extracted sequencing) would be of standard 850 feet wide and some 3200 feet long. The length of the panel is bounded by the increased depth of the coal from the next ridge rise on the northwest (approximately 3500 feet of

cover). The previously approved R2P2 showed no further mining northeast past longwall panel # 17.

UEI has acquired the lease rights to State of Utah coal in section 36 where most of the proposed longwall panel is located. In addition, UEI points to the successful panel-barrier design configuration that has been employed for the last three longwall panels as justification to add an additional longwall panel at depth at this mine. UEI has also submitted a copy of the Inter-panel Barrier and Tailgate Pillar Stability design analysis and report along with Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) letter of adequacy and acceptance of the stability analysis. We have also acquired a copy of MSHA's Approved Roof Control Plan Amendment for panels 19 to 23 which references the previous approval of panels 17 and 18. From our review of the submission, we agree with the proposal and justifications to add panel # 23 (the same panel numbered # 18 in MSHA's submittal) to the R2P2.

In addition, UEI is proposing to use this double two entry bleeder system configuration on one longwall panel on the right side of the Main Entries, named 14<sup>th</sup> East. This change affects only the development entries of this approved longwall panel. The change will improve the ventilation system for the longwall panels.

**Approval:** The R2P2 modification is approved as submitted for longwall panel # 23 for only the portions of the mining area on Federal coal lease UTU-78562. As you are aware, approval for the coal lands not on Federal coal (State coal leases ML-47711 and ML-51744) will require approval from State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Authorization to mine this panel is subject to all conditions and approvals from MSHA. In addition, the longwall development entry configuration (two sets of two entry tailgate and bleeders entries, 14<sup>th</sup> East) on the right side of the Main Entries is also approved as shown on the enclosed approval map. Only a short beginning length of the 14<sup>th</sup> East development entries is on the Federal coal lease. The lengths of the longwall panels on this right side may change from ongoing proposed changes but all are on non-federal coal and will not affect this approval.

As part of this approval, the certified mine map needs to be consistent in naming the appropriate longwall panels with other agency submissions such as with MSHA and Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining. One longwall naming or numbering convention needs to be established for all agencies involved. Please update the certified mine map with the established longwall numbering convention and provide evidence to this office within 30 days.

**Maximum Economic Recovery (MER):** Addition of this longwall panel will add additional recoverable coal to the R2P2 and will achieve MER for Federal coal lease UTU-78562.

**Recoverable Reserve Base:** By adding panel # 23 to the R2P2, the recoverable reserves for Federal coal lease UTU-78562 will be increased from 12,345,613 tons to 12,487,642 tons, an increase of 142,029 tons. The recoverable reserves for the other Federal coal lease at the mine SL-068745 remains the same at 17, 827,365 tons.

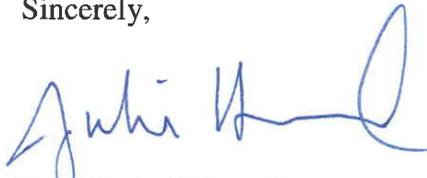
**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** No new surface disturbance is predicted with this plan change, and therefore this action is Categorically Excluded from NEPA analysis as

explained in the Department manual (45 DM Part 516 11.5 (F)(8)): Approval of minor modifications to, or minor variances from activities described in an approved underground or surface mine plan for leasable minerals (e.g., change in mining sequence or timing).

The BLM has determined that this modification complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, and the lease terms and conditions. The modification is approved as depicted on the enclosed mine map with regards only to the Federal coal on lease UTU-78562.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Rigby at 435-636-3604 or Stephen Falk at 435-636-3605 of my staff.

Sincerely,



Acting for Patricia A. Clabaugh  
Field Office Manager

Enclosure:

Approved Mine Map

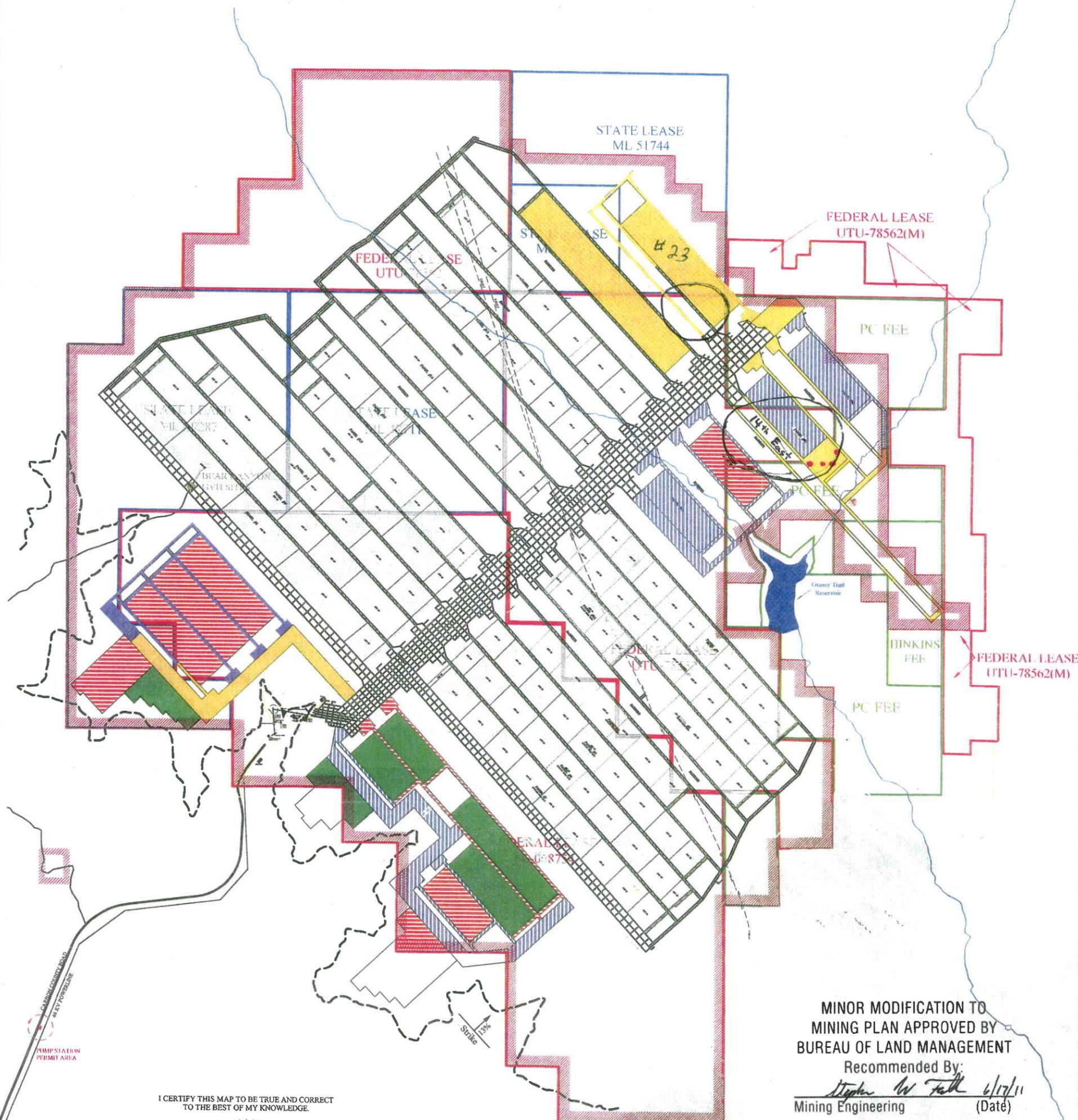
cc: Green River District (UT011)

Utah State Office (UT923)

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

State of Utah  
School and Institutional Trust Land Administration  
675 East 500 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102-2818

Mine Safety and Health Administration  
P. O. Box 25367  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0376



I CERTIFY THIS MAP TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.



MINOR MODIFICATION TO MINING PLAN APPROVED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Recommended By: Stephen W. Fall 6/17/11  
Mining Engineering (Date)

Acting

Approved By: [Signature]  
Area Manager (Date)

**YEAR KEY:**

- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

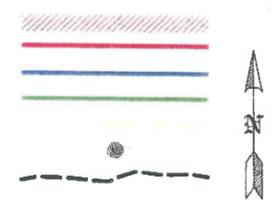
**NOTE:**  
Mine projections are subject to change depending on conditions encountered in the underground mine workings. Actual mine works are shown as of April 19, 2011. Mine projections depicted in the fringe areas beyond the existing permit area are speculative and based on future reserve acquisitions. No mining will be conducted in these areas unless those reserves are acquired in the future and permitted according to federal, state, and local permitting requirements. West Ridge Resources acknowledges that permission to mine within the permit boundary does not imply permission to mine beyond the permit boundary.

Mined Area

**WEST RIDGE MINE**  
**Map 5-4A**  
**Mining Projections**

DATE: 5-18-11 REV: 21 ACAD REF: WRTIMEA REV21

- LEGEND:**
- Permit Boundary
  - Federal Lease
  - State Lease
  - Private Fee
  - Surface Facility Area
  - GVH Site
  - Outcrop



SCALE: 1"=2500'

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PRICE: 0.00

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