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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Division Director

Outgoing
C0070041
#4072
OK

June 14, 2012

David Hibbs, Resident Agent
West Ridge Resources
PO Box 910
East Carbon, Utah, 84520-0910

Subject: 2011 Annual Report Review Completion, West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041, Task ID #4072

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

The Division staff has completed the review of the 2011 Annual Report. Enclosed is a copy of the review with each reviewer's comments completed on June 14, 2012.

Thank you for your diligence in completing the Annual Report. If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs
Enclosure
cc: Price Field Office
O:\007041.WR\WG4072\ReviewCompletionLetter1.doc

Print Form

Submit by Email

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Annual Report

This Annual Report shows information the Division has for your mine. Submit the completed document and any additional information identified in the Appendices to the Division by **March 30, 2012**. During a complete inspection an inspector will check and verify the information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Company Name

Mine Name

Permit Number

Permit expiration Date

Operator Name

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Email

City

State

Zip Code

DOGM File Location or Annual Report Location

Excess Spoil Piles

- Required
 Not Required

Refuse Piles

- Required
 Not Required

Impoundments

- Required
 Not Required

Other:

OPERATOR COMMENTS

REVIEWER COMMENTS

- Met Requirements Did Not meet Requirements

Reviewed by James Owen. Certified pond (impoundment) inspection forms were included in the annual report. No stability or structural weakness issues were reported.

COMMITMENTS AND CONDITIONS

The Permittee is responsible for ensuring annual technical commitments in the Mining and Reclamation Plan and conditions accepted with the permit are completed throughout the year. The Division has identified these commitments below and has provided space for you to report what you have done during the past year for each commitment. If additional written response is required, it should be filed as an attachment to this report.

Title: EXPERIMENTAL FIELD TRIALS

Objective: Monitoring to support proposed experimental practice. Provide a comparison of growth on field trials with Douglas/Fir reference area.

Frequency: Annual evaluation in June

Status: Ongoing

Reports: Provide in annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Appendix 2-6 and Volume A, Map 2-4

Operator Comments

The required report, "Vegetation Monitoring at the Experimental Test Plot, 2011" prepared by Mt. Nebo Scientific is included.

Reviewer Comments Met Requirements Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed by Priscilla Burton on 6/7/2012. Little has changed since last years annual reporting. Total living cover is comparable between reference area and reclaimed plots. Differences in life form between reference area and reclaimed plots are to be expected, since no woody species were seeded or planted. As noted in last year's review of the annual report and in Task 3111 review (2009), a comparison of the Strych Stockpile plot and the Strych Fill plot is the test of the conventional technique versus the experimental technique in the same soil type. Information presented indicates that there was no difference in total living cover on the Strych plots (67.5 and 68.5% total living cover). The difference in composition between the plots is not statistically significant, since the standard of deviation is high in both cases. This was also the case with 2010 sampling.

Title: SOIL SAMPLING OF FILL AT T1, T2 AND T3

Objective: To protect buried substitute topsoil in the fill. Collect a composite sample from several locations near each site to obtain a more average value.

Frequency: Annual evaluation during field season.

Status: Ongoing beginning in 2010.

Reports: Annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Appendix 2-6 addendum and Volume A, Map 2-4

Operator Comments

The required report, "Soil Monitoring at the West Ridge Mine, 2011," prepared by Mt. Nebo Scientific is included.

Reviewer Comments Met Requirements

Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed 6/7/2012 by Priscilla Burton. Sampling locations are shown on a map included with the soils report. A GPS locations has been reported for each sample location (T1, T2, T3) and an attempt to resample the same locations each year is being made. However this is not always possible. Thus the sample locations (T1, T2, T3) vary by several feet from year to year. Samples were analyzed by the BYU Soil and Plant Lab. The analyses are reported by year in Table 1. The mean and standard of deviation is provided for each sample parameter across all locations (the columns in Table 1). A high standard deviation from this mean indicates a sample location has been affected by mining practices (as in the case of SAR and EC values at site T3 in 2008 and also the EC values at site T1 in 2009. In 2011, there standard of deviations for all parameters were less than 1.0, which indicates consistency for such a small number of samples. The variability of each parameter (row) at each location; T1, T2, T3 over time could also be analyzed with the next annual report. i.e. calculate the mean and standard of deviation for each row in Table 1. The variability of parameter values over time at each location could not be interpreted to indicate specific movement of ions through the soil profile, since sampling locations varied, but could indicate the range of values for pH, EC, SAR and %CaCO₂ for each general location T1, T2, & T3.

Title: SUBSIDENCE MONITORING

Objective: To monitor subsidence from longwall mining practices. Subsidence monitoring of panels until the effects of mining have stabilized and vertical movement is less than six inches per year.

Frequency: annual

Status: Ongoing

Reports: annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 2, Chapter 5, page 5-23b to 5-23e

Operator Comments

Subsidence information is included.

Reviewer Comments Met Requirements

Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed by James Owen. Updated subsidence data was included with the annual report submittal. No significant elevation differences were observed in the data outside the range of expected margin of error. Subsidence monitoring was conducted using aerial survey methods.

FUTURE COMMITMENTS AND CONDITIONS

The following commitments are not required for the current annual report year, but will be required by the permittee in the future as indicated by the "status" field. These commitments are included for information only, and do not currently require action. If you feel that the commitment is no longer relevant or needs to be revised, please contact the Division.

Title: RECLAMATION MONITORING

Objective: Visually assess the revegetation success.

Frequency: Quarterly for the first three years and annually in June of each year thereafter

Status: Implement at reclamation

Reports: Annual Report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Chapter 3, page 3-16, paragraph 2

Title: MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL SURVEY

Objective: Conduct appropriate surveys for Mexican spotted owls on the lease tract areas with 40 percent or greater slopes, cliff habitat areas, riparian habitats, and mixed conifer forest habitats, prior to any future surface disturbing activity and/or any mining activity with the potential to interrupt surface spring flows. Inventory work must be conducted by parties approved and permitted for such survey work by the Fish and Wildlife Service and qualified in accordance with R645-301-132. Surveys must follow current protocol established by Fish and wildlife service.

Frequency: As needed

Status: ongoing

Reports: Annual

Citation: Permit condition attachment A, special condition #3.

Title: SOIL SAMPLING OF FINAL GRADED FILL AT CATCHMENTS A, C AND E

Objective: To evaluate salinity

Frequency: Once after final grading

Status: Future commitment

Reports: Provide information to the Division

Citation: MRP, Volume 2, Appendix 5-15, Attachment 9, page 14

OPERATOR COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)

REVIEWER COMMENTS

REPORTING OF OTHER TECHNICAL DATA

Please list other technical data or information that was not included in the form above, but is required under the approved plan, which must be periodically submitted to the Division.

Please list attachments:

Reviewer Comments

MAPS

Copies of mine maps, current and up-to-date through at least December 31, 2011, are to be provided to the Division as an attachment to this report in accordance with the requirements of R645-301-525.240. The map copies shall be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.1200 as required by MSHA. Mine maps are not considered confidential.

Map Name	Map Number	Included		Confidential	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Annual subsidence map		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mine Map		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reviewer Comments Met Requirements Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed by James Owen. An updated mine map was included with the annual report.