



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

February 27, 2013

Jay Marshall, Resident Agent
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 910
East Carbon, Utah 84520-0910

Subject: Approval of West Ridge Lease Modification and Revised Permit Document, West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041, Task ID #4256

Dear Mr. Marshall:

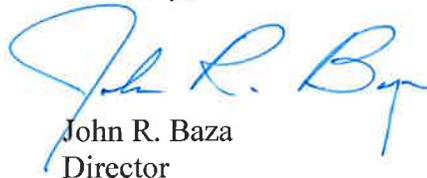
The Division has reviewed your application for a lease modification and permit boundary change for the West Ridge mine. We received the clean copies with the application. Enclosed is a stamped incorporated copy for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Also enclosed are two (2) copies of the revised permanent program permit for the West Ridge Mine.

Please have both permits signed by the designated signatory authority and return one signed original to the Division. You should note that the expiration date of the permit did not change but remains April 1, 2014.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5334 or Daron Haddock at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,



John R. Baza
Director

JRB/DRH/sqs

Enclosure

cc: Price Field Office

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**STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340**

This permit, C/007/0041, is issued for the state of Utah by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) to:

**West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 910
East Carbon, Utah 84520-0910
(435)888-4000**

for the West Ridge Mine. A Surety Bond is filed with the Division in the amount of \$2,184,000 payable to the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). Coal mining and reclamation operations will be conducted on Federal Leases SL-068754-U-01215 and UTU-78562, State Leases ML 47711, ML 49287, ML 51744, BLM ROW UTU-77120 and UTU-87110, on State Special Use Lease #1163 and on Penta Creek fee lease. DOGM must receive a copy of this permit signed and dated by the permittee.

Sec. 1 STATUTES AND REGULATIONS - This permit is issued pursuant to the Utah Coal Mining and Reclamation Act of 1979, Utah Code Annotated (UCA) 40-10-1 et seq, hereafter referred to as the Act.

Sec. 2 PERMIT AREA - The permittee is authorized to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on the following described lands within the permit area at the West Ridge Mine, situated in the state of Utah, Carbon and Emery Counties. The area under permit is 8080.58 acres and is delineated on U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute topographic maps as follows:

Township 13 South, Range 13 East

Section 34: NE1/4SE1/4, S1/2SE1/4;

Section 35: All;

Section 36: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4SW1/4NW1/4, S1/2S1/2NW1/4,
S1/2SW1/4NE1/4, W1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4SE1/4,
NW1/4NE1/4SE1/4

Township 13 South, Range 14 East

Section 31: Lot 4, S1/2SE1/4SW1/4, NE1/4SE1/4SW1/4,
SE1/4NW1/4SE1/4SW1/4, W1/2SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SE1/4SW1/4SE1/4,
S1/2S1/2SE1/4SE1/4

Township 14 South, Range 12 East

Section 25: SE1/4SE1/4 (part thereof containing catchment structure E)

Township 14 South, Range 13 East

Section 1: All;
Section 2: All;
Section 3: Lots 1-3, S1/2N1/2, S1/2;
Section 10: All;
Section 11: All;
Section 12: All;
Section 13: All;
Section 14: E1/2, N1/2NW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, N1/2NW1/4SW1/4,
E1/2SW1/4;
Section 15: NE1/4NE1/4; portion of NW1/4SE1/4NE1/4 (security gate): portion of
SE1/4SW1/4 (catchment structure A)
W1/2NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4NE1/4
Section 16: Portions of E1/2NE1/4SE1/4 (substitute topsoil area);
Section 21: Portion of NE1/4SE1/4NE1/4 (pumping station)
Section 23: Lot 1, N1/2NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4
Section 24: N1/2SE1/4, N1/2, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4
Section 28: NW1/4NW1/4 (catchment structure C)

Township 14 South, Range 14 East

Section 5: W1/2W1/2SW1/4NW1/4, W1/2NW1/4NW1/4SW1/4
Section 6: Lots 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, SE1/4NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4,
S1/2NE1/4, N1/2NE1/4SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4SE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4SE1/4
Section 7: Lots 1, 3 and 4 SE1/4SW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4SW1/4; (Less and excepting
from the portion of section 7, lot 1, those lands under and around Grassy
Trail Dam and Reservoir owned by East Carbon City and Sunnyside
City.
Section 18: Lots 1, 2, 3, E1/2NW1/4.

This legal description is for the permit area of the West Ridge Mine and is shown on Map 5-2 (Surface Ownership Map) of the West Ridge Mine Mining and Reclamation Plan. The permittee is authorized to conduct coal mining and reclamation operations on the foregoing described property subject to the conditions of all applicable conditions, laws and regulations.

- Sec. 3 COMPLIANCE** - The permittee will comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, all applicable performance standards and requirements of the State Program.
- Sec. 4 PERMIT TERM** - This permit is effective on February 27, 2013 and expires on April 1, 2014.
- Sec. 5 ASSIGNMENT OF PERMIT RIGHTS** - The permit rights may not be transferred, assigned or sold without the approval of the Division Director. Transfer, assignment or sale of permit rights must be done in accordance with applicable regulations, including but not limited to 30 CFR 740.13{e} and R645-303-300.
- Sec. 6 RIGHT OF ENTRY** - The permittee shall allow the authorized representative of the Division, including but not limited to inspectors, and representatives of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), without advance notice or a search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials, and without delay to:
- (a) have the rights of entry provided for in 30 CFR 840.12, R645-400-220, 30 CFR 842.13 and R645-400-110;
 - (b) be accompanied by private persons for the purpose of conducting an inspection in accordance with R645-400-100 and R645-400-200 when the inspection is in response to an alleged violation reported to the Division by the private person.
- Sec. 7 SCOPE OF OPERATIONS** - The permittee shall conduct coal mining and reclamation operations only on those lands specifically designated as within the permit area on the maps submitted in the approved plan and approved for the term of the permit and which are subject to the performance bond.
- Sec. 8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS** - The permittee shall take all possible steps to minimize any adverse impact to the environment or public health and safety resulting from noncompliance with any term or condition of the permit, including, but not limited to:
- (a) any accelerated or additional monitoring necessary to determine the nature and extent of noncompliance and the results of the noncompliance;
 - (b) immediate implementation of measures necessary to comply; and
 - (c) warning, as soon as possible after learning of such noncompliance, any person whose health and safety is in imminent danger due to the noncompliance.
- Sec. 9 DISPOSAL OF POLLUTANTS** - The permittee shall dispose of solids, sludge, filter backwash or pollutants in the course of treatment or control of waters or emissions to the air in the manner required by the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program which prevents violation of any applicable state or federal law.

- Sec. 10 CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS** - The permittee shall conduct its operations:
- (a) in accordance with the terms of the permit to prevent significant, imminent environmental harm to the health and safety of the public; and
 - (b) utilizing methods specified as conditions of the permit by the Division in approving alternative methods of compliance with the performance standards of the Act, the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program.
- Sec. 11 EXISTING STRUCTURES** - As applicable, the permittee will comply with R645-301 and R645-302 for compliance, modification, or abandonment of existing structures.
- Sec. 12 RECLAMATION FEE PAYMENTS** - The operator shall pay all reclamation fees required by 30 CFR Part 870 for coal produced under the permit, for sale, transfer or use.
- Sec. 13 AUTHORIZED AGENT** - The permittee shall provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons responsible for operations under the permit to whom notices and orders are to be delivered.
- Sec. 14 COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS** - The permittee shall comply with the provisions of the Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1151 et seq) and the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq), UCA 26-11-1 et seq, and UCA 26-13-1 et seq.
- Sec. 15 PERMIT RENEWAL** - Upon expiration, this permit may be renewed for areas within the boundaries of the existing permit in accordance with the Act, the approved Utah State Program and the Federal Lands Program.
- Sec. 16 CULTURAL RESOURCES** - If during the course of mining operations, previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered, the permittee shall ensure that the site(s) is not disturbed and shall notify the Division. The Division, after coordination with OSM, shall inform the permittee of necessary actions required. The permittee shall implement the mitigation measures required by Division within the time frame specified by Division.
- Sec. 17 APPEALS** - The permittee shall have the right to appeal as provided for under R645-300-200.
- Sec. 18 SPECIAL CONDITIONS** - There are special conditions associated with this permitting action as described in attachment A.

The above conditions (Secs. 1-18) are also imposed upon the permittee's agents and employees. The failure or refusal of any of these persons to comply with these conditions shall be deemed a failure of the permittee to comply with the terms of this permit and the lease. The permittee shall require his agents, contractors and subcontractors involved in activities concerning this permit to include these conditions in the contracts between and among them.

These conditions may be revised or amended, in writing, by the mutual consent of the Division and the permittee at any time to adjust to changed conditions or to correct an oversight. The Division may amend these conditions at any time without the consent of the permittee in order to make them consistent with any federal or state statutes and any regulations.

THE STATE OF UTAH

By: 

Date: 2/28/2013

I certify that I have read, understand and accept the requirements of this permit and any special conditions attached.

Authorized Representative of Permittee

Date: _____

Attachment A

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. This permit specifically authorizes West Ridge Resources, Inc. to conduct an experimental practice in conjunction with their approved Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations at the West Ridge Mine, which allows for the protection of topsoil "IN-PLACE" rather than salvaging soil and stockpiling it for future reclamation. West Ridge Resources, Inc. will follow the plans as outlined in the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan, Chapter 2 and Appendix 2-6 and will be required to evaluate the effectiveness of the experimental practice on an annual basis. The Division will conduct annual reviews of the practice to ensure that it fully protects the environment and the public health and safety. In the event that the experimental practice is determined to be not as environmentally protective and would otherwise be required by standards promulgated under R645-301 and R645-302, revised reclamation plans which utilize standard reclamation technology will be required.
2. West Ridge Resources, Inc. will submit the required water quality data for the West Ridge Mine in an electronic format through the Electronic Data Input web site, <http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/cgi-bin/appx-ogm.cgi>.

State of Utah



Coal Regulatory Program

West Ridge Mine
West Ridge Resources
Technical Analysis
February 27, 2013

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DESCRIPTION

On December 3, 2012, the Division received an application from West Ridge Resources to add 480.2 acres to the West Ridge Mine permit boundary. The lease modification resulted in less than a 15% change in the total area of the permit boundary and was within the current CHIA and the same hydrologic basin as the rest of the permit area. Therefore, this lease modification did not result in a significant revision to the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

The 480.2 acres is located in Sections 14, 15, 23 and 24 of T14S R13E and Federal Coal Lease SL-068754.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Division made the following findings during the review of the Incidental Boundary Change application.

1. The Permit change is not considered a significant permit revision in accordance with R645-303-226.
2. The permit change application identified the proposed change (an addition of 480.2 acres to the permit area) and included information required under R645-301 and R645-302 to the extent applicable to the proposed change.
3. The present coal mining and reclamation operations are in compliance with the environmental protection standards of the Act and the Utah State Program (R645-303-233.120).
4. The requested amendment will not substantially jeopardize the operator's continuing ability to comply with the Act and the Utah State Program (R645-303-233.130).
5. The operator has provided evidence of having liability insurance (Federal Insurance Company #3710-95-30 (R645-303-233.140).
6. The operator has posted two reclamation sureties summing to the total required amount and provided evidence that the sureties will remain in full effect. One surety is issued by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA in the amount of \$2,117,000 (Bond # 91-B-54926). The second surety is issued by Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company in the amount of \$67,000 (#ISB-2795). The total posted surety bond is \$2,184,000 (R645-303-233.150).
7. The operator has submitted all applicable, revised or updated information as required by the Division at this time. (R645-303-233.160).

GENERAL CONTENTS

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.15; R645-301-114

Analysis:

Right of Entry information is located starting on page 1-6 of Chapter 1 of the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). The permittee updated Section 114.100 on page 1-6 to add 480.2 acres to the amount of federal coal acres leased by West Ridge Resources, inc.

The acreage for federal lease UTU 78562 listed on page 1-6, 1-7, and 1-9 is 2605.49 acres. Table 1-2, lists the acreage for this lease as 2,249.25 because this refers to surface lease acres, not coal lease acres.

The permittee updated Table 1-1, Federal Lease and ROW Properties, Table 1-4 Legal Description or Permit Area (By Leasehold), Table 1-5 Legal Description of Permit Area (total Area), and Table 1-6 Surface Ownership of Permit Area. All relevant maps in the MRP have been updated with this application to include the expansion areas for federal lease SL-068754.

Proof of federal lease assignment is included in this application for incorporation into Appendix 1-4 of the Mining and Reclamation Plan. The areas defined in the lease document were verified with the areas updated on the maps.

Findings:

The information provided is considered adequate to meet the regulatory requirements for this section.

PERMIT TERM

Regulatory References: 30 CFR 778.17; R645-301-116.

Analysis:

The current permit was effective on June 28, 2011 and expires on April 1, 2014. The permit will be reissued with approval of this amendment. The permit will include the updated permit area description.

Findings:

The information provided is considered adequate to meet the regulatory requirements for this section. Upon approval of this amendment, a new permit will be issued.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Permit Area Boundary Maps

The application requests to remove Plate 5-4B (Mining Projections – Extended Reserves) from the MRP. Due to the fact that updates to Plate 5-4A indicate that mining projections include no extended reserves and that the life of mine is less than 3 years, a map detailing extended reserves is no longer necessary.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

The operator has posted two reclamation sureties summing to the total required amount and provided evidence that the sureties will remain in full effect. One surety is issued by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA in the amount of \$2,117,000 (Bond # 91-B-54926). The second surety is issued by Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company in the amount of \$67,000 (#ISB-2795). The total posted surety bond is \$2,184,000.

A letter was included with the application for proof that Specialty Insurance Company agreed to extend the coverage of the posted lease bond for the additional modified acreage. This is not a state-held bond.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-411.

Analysis:

The Archeology map 4-2 was updated to show the new permit boundary. Several file searches and class III intensive cultural resource studies have been completed in the area of the permit boundary expansion. These include SPUT-595, AN 88, LP 86-1, SP 97 and BYU 86 conducted by SENCO-Phenix. No cultural resources are located above the projected mine panels.

Findings:

The information provided is considered adequate to meet the regulatory requirements for this section.

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.14; R645-100-200, -301-724.

Analysis:

Baseline Information

The application meets the hydrology baseline information requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

The proposed addition to Federal Lease SL-068754 includes portions of Sections of 14, 15, 23 and 24 of T 14 S, R 13E (lease modification area). The area is generally located directly adjacent to the south-west edge of the currently approved permit area.

Upon comparing the water right information located on the Division of Water Rights web-site with the water right information provided in the approved MRP, it appears that there are no potentially state appropriated water rights that could be potentially impacted by mining activity in the proposed lease modification area (i.e. springs, point to point diversions or groundwater wells).

GROUNDWATER

Groundwater information is provided in Chapter 7, Appendix 7-1 of the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP).

A spring and seep survey conducted in 1985 by the Kaiser Coal Company is provided in Appendix 7-6. Map 7-5, Seep/Spring Survey Map, depicts the area covered by the 1985 survey and includes the proposed lease modification area. Water quality and quantity information is also provided in Appendix 7-6. Based upon the 1985 survey, a very minimal number of seeps and springs are located in the proposed lease modification area. Two springs were identified within the proposed lease modification area: S-2 and F-25. The flow at S-2 was not of sufficient volume to even measure at the time of the survey. F-25 produced a flow of 1 gallon per minute and is utilized by wildlife. According to spring and seep information provided in Appendix 7-6 as well as Appendix 7-1, aquifers or recharge areas for aquifers do not exist within the permit and adjacent area (including the proposed lease modification area).

SURFACE WATER

Surface water information is provided in Chapter 7 of the approved MRP as well as in Appendix 7-1. The proposed lease modification area is located within the A Canyon, B Canyon and C Canyon drainages (See Figure 15, Appendix 7-1). Based upon a review of the approved MRP hydrology information as well as numerous field visits to the West Mine area, the A, B and C Canyon drainages are the only significant water courses that could potentially be affected by mining activity in the proposed lease modification area.

The A Canyon drainage is located on the southern portion of the permit and adjacent area. The A Canyon drainage is comprised of a Left and Right Fork (872 acres and 597 acres respectively). The A Canyon drainage is an ephemeral drainage. Flow in this drainage is a result of precipitation/snow-melt events.

The B Canyon drainage is also located on the southern extent of the permit and adjacent area (west of A Canyon). Significant portions of the B Canyon drainage are devoid of vegetation with large expanses of bare bedrock. As with the A Canyon drainage, the B Canyon drainage

has been characterized as an ephemeral drainage (i.e. flow noted during periods of precipitation/snow-melt).

The C Canyon drainage is located west of the B Canyon drainage and is the location of the mine surface facilities. The C Canyon drainage is also an ephemeral drainage.

The relative absence of riparian vegetation within these drainages provides additional support to the ephemeral characterization of these drainages. Riparian vegetation is noticeable in the C Canyon drainage; however, the vegetation is the result of the mine-water discharge (i.e. anthropogenic sources of water). Once mine dewatering activities have ceased, the riparian vegetation will die off. Based on the information contained within the approved MRP, instances of no flow have been observed historically within the A, B and C Canyon drainages. During the initial permitting of the West Ridge Mine, the A, B and C Canyon drainages did not produce a flow from April to December 1997.

Quarterly water monitoring has historically been conducted on the A, B and C Canyon drainages since 1997. Surface water monitoring site ST-7 was quarterly monitored beginning in 1997 on the A Canyon drainage below the permit and adjacent area. Since monitoring began at this site in 1997 up until it was approved for removal from the West Ridge mine's water monitoring program (2nd quarter of 2011), no observable flows were ever reported to the Division's electronic water-monitoring database over that 14 year period.

Quarterly water monitoring was also conducted at surface water monitoring site ST-5. ST-5 is located at the confluence of the B and C Canyon drainages. Monitoring at ST-5 began in 1997. No observable flows were reported until the 1st quarter of 2003 when the mine began to discharge water into the C Canyon drainage during the 1st quarter of 2003. Since that time, the mine-water discharge has increased as well as the flows recorded at site ST-5. ST-5 was approved for removal from the West Ridge Mine's water monitoring program during the 2nd quarter of 2011.

Given the lack of high flow springs that could support intermittent or perennial flow in the A, B and C Canyon drainages, the steep canyon walls that minimize infiltration recharge to area springs, the observed lack of flow in these drainages and the lack of riparian vegetation by Division staff, the Division accepts the ephemeral characterization of these drainages.

Probable Hydrologic Consequences Determination

The application meets the Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) Determination requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

The hydrologic resources and potential for impacts as a result of mining activity have been examined and discussed in the approved MRP. The three surface drainages that could potentially be impacted by mining activity in the proposed lease modification area include the A,

B and C Canyon drainages. As discussed above, these drainages have been characterized by years of water monitoring as ephemeral drainages. Additionally, upon comparing the water right information located on the Division of Water Rights web-site with the water right information provided in the approved MRP, it appears that there are no state appropriated water rights that could be potentially impacted by mining activity in the proposed lease modification area (i.e. springs, point to point diversions or groundwater wells). In addition, the previously approved seep and spring survey (See Map 7-5) did not identify any significant hydrologic resources within the proposed lease modification area.

The Division finds that the potential consequences to hydrologic resources within the proposed lease modification area as a result of mining activity are minimal. Generally speaking the proposed lease modification area is characterized by ephemeral drainages that respond to precipitation/snow-melt events. Given the lack of documented seeps/springs and state appropriated water rights, there is a minimal amount of hydrologic resources that could even be impacted by mining activity in the proposed lease modification area. The approved MRP provides a detailed discussion and supporting data to characterize the groundwater systems in the West Ridge Mining area, including the proposed lease modification area.

No perennial or intermittent streams are located within the proposed lease modification area. Surface flows from the A, B and C Canyon drainages are ephemeral and as such, unpredictable and short-lived. Numerous observations have been made by Division staff that the surface flow in these drainages often times disappears long before reaching a perennial drainage due to the alluvial material that comprises the stream beds of these canyons.

Findings:

The application meets the Hydrologic Information requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

OPERATION PLAN

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21, 817.97; R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

Bald and Golden Eagles

Page 3-8 and 3-9 of the MRP states that “locations within the permit area that contain potential raptor nesting habitat will be surveyed in the field within one year of any proposed mining activity that could result in subsidence.” The mining projections shown on map 5-4A show that mining will occur in the vicinity of the new lease in 2013. The 2012 raptor survey data was included with this amendment application. The 2012 survey data shows that there are at least two tended or active golden eagle territories within the lease expansion area. However, no nests are located above mine panels projected for 2013. In the future, if an active nest is located above the subsidence area, the permittee must work with the Division, DWR and the USFWS to determine how the nest will be protected or avoided during mining.

Findings:

The information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the regulatory requirements of this section.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

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

Analysis:

Map 5-7, Subsidence Map was updated to include the newly modified lease areas. The change will not require any additional changes to the currently approved subsidence control plan. Map 5-7 considers the new lease areas as possible subsidence areas. Areas within the new lease will be additional room and pillar or developmental areas. An angle of draw of 20 degrees was used to project the maximum extent of subsidence.

Renewable Resources Survey

The application meets the Renewable Resources Survey requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

Based upon the baseline information provided in the approved MRP, an aquifer or aquifer recharge area is not located within the proposed lease modification area. Therefore, additional renewable resources survey work is not required for approval of the proposed lease modification area.

Findings:

The application meets the Renewable Resources Survey requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

Analysis:

Water Monitoring

The application meets the Water Monitoring requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

The A, B and C Canyon drainages have been established as ephemeral drainages. Stream monitoring site ST-7 (located at the mouth of the A Canyon drainage) was monitored from 1997 to 2011. During that time-frame, no observable flows were recorded/sampled.

Quarterly water monitoring was also conducted at surface water monitoring site ST-5. ST-5 is located at the confluence of the B and C Canyon drainages. Monitoring at ST-5 began in 1997. No observable flows were reported until the 1st quarter of 2003 when the mine began to discharge water into the C Canyon drainage during the 1st quarter of 2003. Since that time, the mine-water discharge has increased as well as the flows recorded at site ST-5. ST-5 was approved for removal from the West Ridge Mine's water monitoring program during the 2nd quarter of 2011.

The C Canyon drainage is currently being monitored at site ST-6. Water monitoring will continue at this monitoring location.

Given the absence of seeps/springs in the proposed lease modification area, monitoring is not required for groundwater.

Diversions: General

The application meets the Diversion requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules. No additional surface disturbance is proposed with the lease modification. As a result, there will be no need to construct a diversion of any type of drainage.

Stream Buffer Zones

The application meets the Stream Buffer Zone requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules. The proposed lease modification does not include any additional surface disturbance to the bonded area for the West Ridge Mine. Additionally, the application does not propose the construction of any additional surface facilities (i.e. roads, structures, ventilation portals etc.). The proposed mine workings does not include the undermining of a perennial or intermittent stream. The A, B and C Canyon drainages have been well established as ephemeral streams.

Sediment Control Measures/Siltation Structures:

The application meets the Sediment Control and Siltation Structure requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

The mining activity within the proposed lease modification area will not require any additional surface disturbance. As such, there is no need for sediment control/siltation structures.

Findings:

The application meets the Sediment Control and Siltation Structure requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

RECLAMATION PLAN

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

Analysis:

Hydrologic Reclamation Plan

The application meets the Hydrologic Reclamation Plan requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

The proposed lease modification does not include any additional surface disturbance to the bonded area for the West Ridge Mine. The application does not propose the construction of any additional surface facilities (i.e. roads, structures, ventilation portals etc.). As a result, the currently approved reclamation plan does not a revision for the proposed lease expansion.

Findings:

The application meets the Hydrologic Reclamation Plan requirements of the State of Utah R645-Coal Mining Rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This Incidental Boundary Change is recommended for approval.