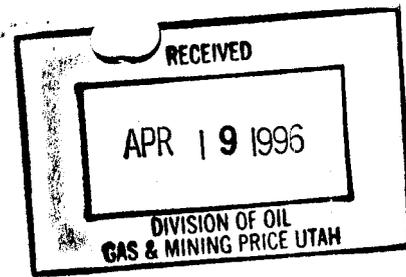


0030



Amendment Act 015/009-96A

April 19, 1996

Utah Coal Regulatory Program
 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
 Price Field Office
 451 East 400 North
 P.O. Box 156
 Price, Utah 84501

*Copy Joe = Dawson
Folder #2*

Attention: Mr. Bill Malencik

RE: AMENDMENT TO FACILITATE MINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED RESOURCE RECOVERY AND PROTECTION PLAN (R2P2); THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH EAST DEVELOPMENT, FOURTH AND FIFTH EAST LONGWALL PANELS; PACIFICORP, TRAIL MOUNTAIN MINE, ACT/015/009, EMERY COUNTY, UTAH

PacifiCorp, by and through its wholly owned subsidiary, Energy West Mining Company ("Energy West") as mine operator, requests that an amendment be granted to facilitate mining in Third, Fourth and Fifth East development sections and Fourth and Fifth East longwall panels, at the Trail Mountain Mine, in accordance with the R2P2 approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The R2P2, approved by BLM on March 15, 1996 (attachment for Appendix 3-3L), depicted on Plates 3-2 and 3-3, includes extending the Third, Fourth and Fifth East development sections approximately 700 feet East beyond the location previously proposed (see Plate 3-2, DO-95A, certified 11/8/95). The area into which the development is to be extended is within the Trail Mountain Mine Permit Area. Development mining (first mining) in this area is consistent with previous mine plan approvals (see following discussion) and the current Trail Mountain Mine Permit and the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). Therefore, a Permit Amendment seems appropriate to address this situation.

The accompanying revised MRP text pages (3-19, 3-21 & 3-21.1) and plates (3-2, 3-2A & 3-3) reflect changes which make the MRP consistent with the entire approved R2P2. However, the amendment is requested for only the portion of the R2P2 associated with extension of the Third, Fourth and Fifth East development sections and Fourth and Fifth East longwall panels (see Plate 3-2A).

Huntington Office:

(801) 687-9821

Fax (801) 687-2695

Purchasing Fax (801) 687-9092

Deer Creek Mine:

(801) 381-2317

Fax (801) 381-2285

Cottonwood Mine:

(801) 748-2319

Fax (801) 748-2380

Development mining must occur well in advance of longwall extraction. Longwall extraction in the Fourth East panel is scheduled to begin in mid-June; therefore, Third East and Fourth East development mining must be completed by mid-May. Extraction in the Fifth East panel will not occur until mid-October; however, Fourth East development is related to both the Fourth and Fifth East longwall panels. Therefore, Fourth East development must be driven to the extent necessary to facilitate the Fifth East longwall panel. Approximately 37,700 tons of additional coal will be recovered from the extension of the development entries as identified in the approved R2P2. As previously stated, development mining is first mining; therefore, no subsidence will occur as a result of the development mining. The subject area is within the Trail Mountain Mine Permit Area and is included in the existing subsidence monitoring and control program. Additionally, mining in this portion of the Trail Mountain Mine was addressed in 1991. See attached BLM letter to the Division dated April 12, 1991, regarding Beaver Creek Coal Company's mine plan, first mining and escarpment protection. Mining in this area was again addressed in 1995 (BLM letter to PacifiCorp dated June 21, 1995). The subject area is identified as "parcel I" in the 1995 letter. This letter reads, in-part, ... "these areas/reserves"... "were scheduled for mining by the previous lessee/operator. Therefore, with the status of these reserves unchanged, they cannot be deleted from the recoverable reserve base. Accordingly, these reserves/areas are required to be mined."

The 1996 BLM approval of the Trail Mountain Mine R2P2 includes proposed longwall extraction (second mining) in the Fourth and Fifth East panels, east of the eastern boundary of Section 1, T18S, R6E. As the above referenced 1991 letter indicates, lease terms specify protection of cliffs from mine-induced subsidence failure; additionally, DOGM Special Condition 4 of the Trail Mountain Mine Permit limits mining in this vicinity to "first mining only". Therefore, the 1996 BLM approved R2P2 prompted an Environmental Assessment (EA) by the Forest Service. The EA process is expected to be completed, no sooner than, mid-June. Longwall extraction will not occur in this area until after the Environmental Assessment process is completed; however, development for future longwall extraction must be completed by mid-May. Approximately 393,000 tons of additional coal will be recovered from the extension of Fourth and Fifth East longwall panels as identified in the 1996 approved R2P2. All coal recovery in this area will occur within the current Trail Mountain Mine Permit Area. Following completion of the EA process, the Trail Mountain Mine MRP will be revised to include all applicable information. The proposed underground right-of-way access identified in the R2P2 and the EA will be addressed by application to the Division through the appropriate processes (IBC, etc.) as the need is identified.

The recent discovery of an active Peregrine falcon territory in the vicinity of the proposed extension of the Fourth and Fifth East panels has resulted in great uncertainty regarding mining in this area. Therefore, longwall extraction and the associated development mining, as identified in the approved R2P2, may not

necessarily occur as currently proposed. However, Division approval to facilitate development mining according to the schedule discussed above is still needed.

Forms DOGM-C1 and C-2 are transmitted herewith.

Your immediate attention regarding this request is greatly appreciated. If you have questions regarding this matter, please call me at (801) 687-4722. I am available to meet with you at your convenience, if it would be beneficial to your review of this request.

Sincerely,



Val Payne

Sr. Environmental Engineer

cc: P. Grubaugh-Littig