



State of Utah
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 5, 1996

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DRZ*
 Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Jess Kelley, Reclamation Engineer *JK*

RE: Review of Mining Plan at the Request of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS);
 Trail Mountain Mine; PacifiCorp; ACT\015\009; Folder No. 2; Emery
 County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Through 1994 and 1995, the permittee changed the Trail Mountain Mine from a conventional room-and-pillar operation to a longwall operation. The permittee also obtained an additional Federal lease--U-64375. During the change in operation, the permittee has also been working with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to formulate a mine plan and a Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) which would insure the greatest possible coal recovery rate and thus comply with state and Federal regulatory requirements.

On January 22, 1996, USFS submitted a copy of the latest version of the mining plan for the Division's review and comment. This memorandum constitutes this writer's review of that submittal.

ANALYSIS

The proposed mining plan shows the anticipated development of entries and panels through the year 2002. Main entries are to be developed toward the south and a total of 16 longwall panels are to be developed east and west from the main entries.

Depth of cover in this area ranges from 1200 feet to 1600 feet, which at the same time both lessens the expected amount of surface subsidence and lowers the coal recovery rate by making necessary the leaving of larger entry protection pillars. Mining will

be kept within a protective escarpment barrier zone, the extent of which has been determined by projecting the possible subsidence downward from the edge of the Castlegate escarpment to the level of the coal seam using the known angle of draw. The permittee expects to achieve an overall coal recovery rate of 60%, which is about the average for longwall operations in similar conditions in the United States.

In the south-central part of Federal Lease U-64375, there is a thinning in the coal seam which trends toward the northeast. The mining plan anticipates the development of entries, but not the mining of the coal, in this area. However, the plan leaves open the possibility of mining in this area if entry development reveals that the seam is thick and extensive enough to be mined.

At the urging of both USFS and BLM, the mining plan lengthens several of the panels beyond what they were in earlier versions in order to increase the coal recovery rate. In several places, the lengthened panels will require the development of entries outside of the present lease boundaries. The permittee has proposed, and USFS has agreed to, the establishment of small rights-of-way to accommodate these entries. In accordance with R645-303-220, the permittee must amend the approved plan to include these rights-of-way in the approved permit area where they extend beyond the present permit area.

FINDINGS\RECOMMENDATIONS

This writer finds the proposed mining plan to be acceptable in general, and from a coal recovery and subsidence standpoint in particular. However, the writer recommends that the permittee amend the plan to include the proposed rights-of-way in the approved permit area before the Division approves the mining plan.