



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501

*Income*  
*07/15/00*

cc: *Daron*  
*Pete*  
3482  
U-082996  
(UT-070)

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

JUN 8 2001

Re: Temporary Closure. Trail Mountain Mine, PacifiCorp

Dear Mrs. Grubaugh-Littig:

Enclosed is a copy of an inspection report of a joint onsite at the Trail Mountain Mine conducted by field personnel from both our agencies. The report was to document findings at the said mine during temporary closure. Along with this report are our recommendations on the closure plan received from the company.

PacifiCorp sent a notice to us on February 8, 2001, of "Temporary Cessation of Operations for the Trail Mountain, Cottonwood, and Wilberg Mines." The notice showed the proposed seals on the portals and documented items that would be left in the mine. A joint inspection was held on April 6, 2001, with officials from the company, our and your office. The inspection and our findings relate only to the Trail Mountain Mine, as this was the first mine to be sealed. We will address the Cottonwood/Wilberg side after a separate inspection and analysis.

The application for "Temporary Cessation of Operations" submitted by PacifiCorp details the plans for putting the Trail Mountain Mine in a temporarily closed condition with temporary portal seals. We are in agreement with a temporary cessation as we believe the Trail Mountain portals and main entries form the most logical and economic future access to the Cottonwood Coal Tract now under the jurisdiction of the State of Utah's School and Institutional Trust Land Administration. However, PacifiCorp has recovered most of the equipment and materials from the mine should Trail Mountain never be reopened and final reclamation occurs. As noted in the inspection report, the items that PacifiCorp documented would be left in the mine were verified. It is our opinion that the remaining items in the mine would cause no adverse impacts to the hydrologic regime in the mine. We have consulted in the past with metallurgists from universities who have consistently stated that corrosion of steel releases ferrous oxides into the environment at such a slow rate that the amount of iron that could go into solution is negligible. Some of the steel high-pressure pipe left at Trail Mountain could be used again if the mine were reopened. However, if the mine was not reopened, no adverse impacts would occur.

With regard to temporary sealing of the portals, the plan is adequate to protect the unmined coal resource and bar access to the resource. The seals meet standards set by MSHA and are acceptable to us for compliance with rules under the Mineral Leasing Act for abandonment and protection of the unmined coal and other mineral resource (43 CFR 3484.2 (b)).

Pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and in conjunction with the rules at 43 CFR 3400, and the lease terms, PacifiCorp's plan for temporary abandonment of the Trail Mountain Mine is acceptable and confirmed by us. Should you have further questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Manus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard L. Manus  
Field Manager

cc: UT-921, SD, Utah (w/enclosure)  
Manti-LaSal National Forest (w/enclosure)  
599 West Price River Road  
Price, Utah 84501

# Bureau of Land Management

## Inspection Report For Coal Operations

Inspection Number swf04/23/01

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Inspection Date 4/6/01

Quarter 3rd Fiscal Year FY2001

Mine Trail Mountain Purpose Special

U-082996	Main intake and beltline	
U-49332	Main intake and beltline	
UTU-64375	1st Right off 5th Left	Seals on 5 Left at xcut 15

### Current Mine Status

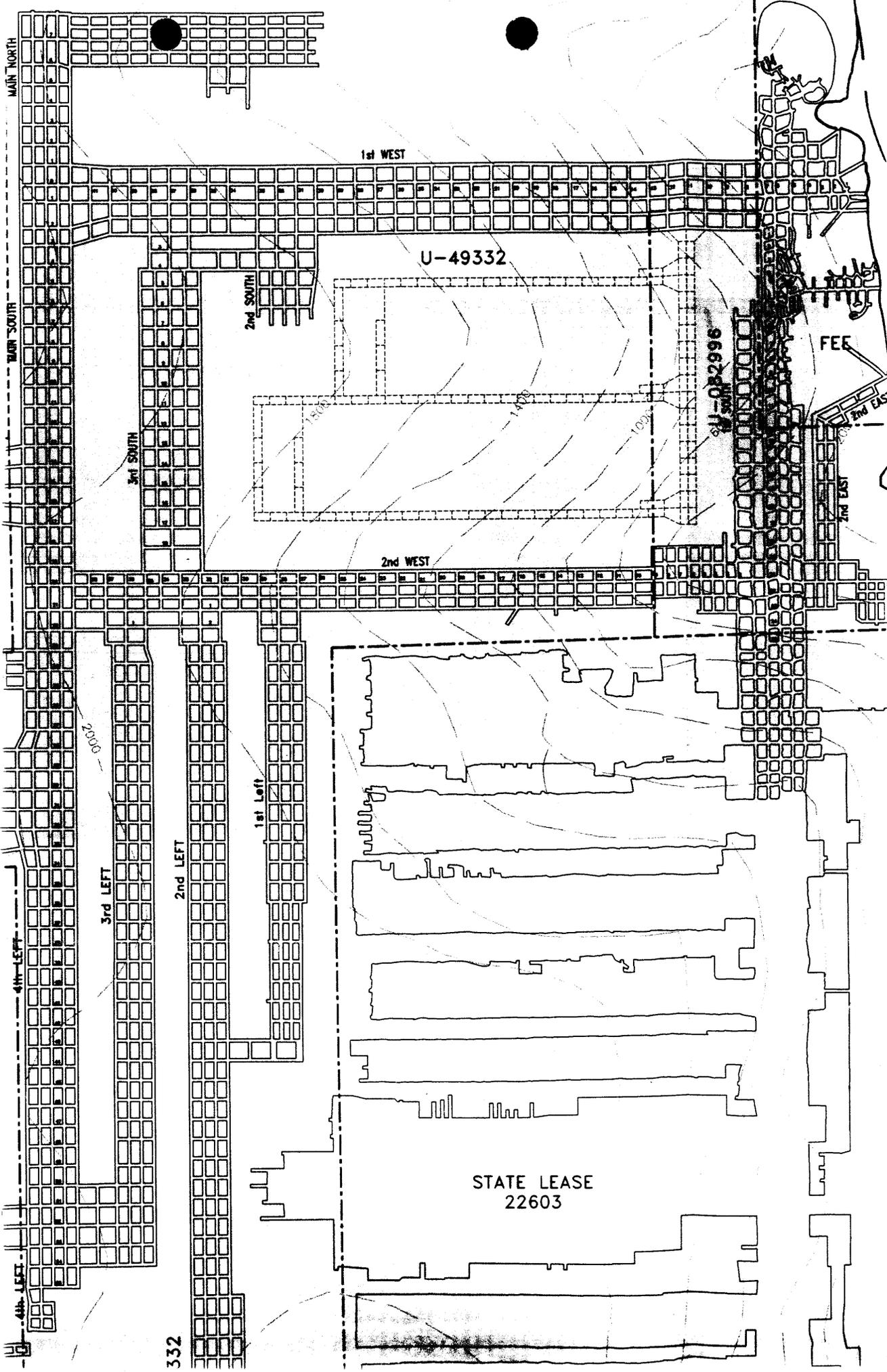
On April 6, 2001, I made a joint inspection of the Trail Mountain Mine prior to sealing the portals for "Temporary Cessation of Operations". Peter Hess from Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (UDOGM) accompanied me. Ed Riggle, Mine Engineer from Energy West (mining operator and subsidiary of the lessee PacifiCorp), was our representative from the operator. The purpose of this underground inspection was to observe the conditions of the mine as Energy West pulls out of the mine and prepares it for sealing.

We started the inspection by travelling back to the seals in 5th Left Mains and walked back the belt line to the outside. The seals in 5th Left Mains are by the intersection of the last set of longwall gate road entries, 2nd and 1st Right and effectively have sealed the whole of the southern mine workings. Before these seals were installed, a full walk inspection was made on November 7, 2000, of the 5th Left Mains and the 10th Right gateroads or bleeder entries around the 10th through 1st Right mined out longwall block. I noted in the inspection of November 7 that no major equipment or structures were left other than 3 small 5 horsepower electric pumps and associated 3 or 4 inch steel dewater pipeline through the area, about 5000 feet. These facts are stated herein to note what was looked at prior to this inspection.

The seals at 5th Left just inby crosscut 15 were standard block and sealed stoppings. From this point we traveled out mostly along the beltline entries. Noted what items were still in the mine. For the most part the main 6 in. steel high pressure water line that ran in the belt entry was to be left (reported as 9000 feet of pipe), along with the 12 in. PVC dewatering pipe. These two main pipelines ran along the beltline to the portal. All the belt structure and belting were removed except for a couple of hanging belt structure frames left at a transfer point. From our observations, all major items were not in the mine or being removed. They did inform us that the longwall shields were being temporary stored in some crosscuts near the portal until they are ready to move them to Deer Creek Mine at the next longwall move. This will keep the shields out of the weather during this storage period, estimated at a couple of weeks.

Though we did not travel to every place in the mine, we observed the most likely places where items could be left or stored. The beltline entries were entirely pulled of items except the noted pipes. PacifiCorp's list of items left in the Trail Mountain Mine reflected our observations underground. It is my opinion that PacifiCorp's has withdrawn most of the items in the mine. Of the listed and noted items, namely the pipelines, it is my opinion that these could not cause detrimental effects to the hydrologic regime in the area. The piping is resistant to fast and rapid decomposition and the amount of iron that could precipitate into any water bearing regime is minimal. The area of the pipeline is in up dip areas where water will not build up. We can see no environmental harm should the pipes be left. The closure of the Trail Mountain Mine is at this stage a temporary cessation. We do believe that there is a strong possibility that the main portals and entries will be used in the future to access the Cottonwood coal tract to the north. So at this stage we are not looking as a permanent abandoned mine though those items left we feel would not harm the environment should the become permanently sealed.

### Close Out Discussion



1st WEST

U-49332

2nd SOUTH

U-082996

FEE

2nd WEST

2000

1st Left

2nd LEFT

3rd LEFT

4th LEFT

STATE LEASE  
22603

332