



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
 P.O. Box 45155
 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3482
 (UT-923)
 UTU-082996
 UTU-64375

MAY 18 2004

Carl Palastro
 Interwest Mining Company
 Energy West Mining Company
 P.O. Box 310
 Huntington, Utah 84528

Re: Approval of the Minor Modification to delete 2nd Right panel and a portion of the 1st Right panel in the Trail Mountain mine.

Mooring
5/15/2004
Copy May Ann, Down
5-20-04
AM 5/17

Dear Mr. Palastro:

Background: On October 18, 2000, PacifiCorp by and through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Interwest Mining company as managing agent and Energy West Mining company as mine operator submitted a modification to the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) for the Trail Mountain Mine. This plan would delete the 2nd Right panel from crosscut #62 to crosscut #89. The company calculated a deletion of reserves at 1.4 million tons of coal. The 1st Right panel would be deleted from crosscut #74 to #59. The company sited safety reasons.

Energy West apparently attempted to contact the Price BLM Field Office mining personnel on October 6 and 9, 2000 (a National Holiday) but did not establish contact until October 10, 2000. On October 10, 2000, staff personnel from Energy West, Trail Mountain mine met with the staff of the Price Field Office. BLM was verbally informed of the safety concerns and the company decision to abandon the 2nd Right pane and not mine it. Energy West informed BLM that the new set up rooms in the 1st Right panel at crosscut #59 had been started. They then requested our verbal approval with a formal written request coming for this modification. This action of starting the setup rooms permanently abandoned the coal in the 1st Right panel from crosscuts #74 to #59. 43 CFR 3484.1 (c)(1) states, "Underground mining operations shall be conducted so as to prevent wasting of coal and to conserve recoverable coal reserves consistent with the protection and use of other resources. No entry, room, or panel workings in which the pillars have not been completely mined within safe limits shall be permanently abandoned or render in accessible, **except with the prior written approval of the authorized officer.**" (Emphasis Added)

MAY 19 2004

Approval: BLM approves the abandonment of the 2nd Right Panel from crosscut #62 outby. This will delete approximately 1.4 million tons of coal. The 1st Right Panel from cross cut #74 to #59 will remain in the minable reserves. Please provide an R2P2 modification for the mining in this area or a reason why some coal reserves should be left in-place.

NEPA: This approval is Categorically Excluded as a minor modification to an existing mining plan because there will be no new surface disturbance in this area as stated in, Overview of BLM's NEPA Process, February 1997, Appendix 2, page 2-7 (F)(7).

Conditions of Approval: In accordance with 43CFR 3482.1(c)(4)(iv)(C) the R2P2 will show "Location of areas why these pillars will be left and an explanation why these pillars will not be mined." BLM requires that a modification to the Resource Recover and Protection Plan R2P2 be submitted to show appropriate mining within the 1st Right panel from crosscuts #74 to #59 or submit a justification why limited mining can not take place within this area. Appropriate barrier pillars shall be left.

If you have any questions, please call Stan Perkes at 539-4036.

Sincerely,

✓ **James F. Kohler**
James F. Kohler
Chief, Solids Minerals Branch

Enclosure
Approved Mine Map

cc: Price Field Office

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah
84114-5801 (Attn: Mary Ann Wright)

