

0615/009 Incoming



# United States Department of the Interior

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## 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  
UTU-73339, LMU UTU-73339  
UTU-49332, UTU-082996, UTU-64375  
(UT-923)

JUL 19 2010

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JUL 20 2010

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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Mr. Scott Child  
Manager, Lands and Regulatory Affairs  
Interwest Mining Company  
1407 West North Temple  
Suite 310  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Re: Modification to the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), Trail Mountain Mine LMU UTU-73339, (Federal Coal Leases U-49332, U-082996 and U-64375) Emery County, Utah.

Dear Mr. Child:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received on June 30, 2010, a Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2) modification request from Interwest Mining Company (Interwest) for the subject mine. The proposed modification revises the mine layout and the timing of the mining, with emphasis on the 1<sup>st</sup> West Longwall Panels, the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Development Section on Interwest's Logical Mining Unit (LMU) UTU-73339, which includes Federal coal leases U-49332, U-082996 and UTU-64375.

**Proposed Plan:** The plan submitted by Interwest applies to the finalized mining plan and tonnage adjustments within the Trail Mountain LMU. Interwest has previously relinquished portions of the above listed Federal coal leases and as such, a final recoverable reserve figure needed to be determined. BLM has calculated that there are 1,730,017 tons recoverable remaining within the current Trail Mountain LMU. The mining plan for this resource has been reviewed by BLM and it has been determined to be both logical and practical to recover the remaining recoverable reserve.

**Approval:** The BLM agrees with the proposed changes. While access to the Trail Mountain mine remains temporarily closed, we have thoroughly reviewed the mine plan and reserve calculations as well as all historical documentation associated with this plan and found it to be adequate and acceptable to the intention of the regulations.

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 Shelf  
 Expandable

The approved R2P2 map (attached) extends the existing mine workings appropriately using longwall retreat mining with continuous miner development of Mains, longwall panels and gate roads. The approved R2P2 shows extension of the 3<sup>rd</sup> West Mains to the LMU boundary (located within Federal Lease U-64375) as well as the addition of two 630' wide longwall panels located between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> West within Federal coal leases U-49332 and U-082996. Also included is second mining of various pillaring areas where excessive cover, practical and safe mining methods, and coal quality issues do not impede the recovery. However, this does not preclude non-pillaring methods on retreat such as splitting pillars where safely practical.

As part of this approval, Interwest has established a projected mining start year of 2018 by a letter dated July 13, 2010.

**Maximum Economic Recovery (MER):** Full extraction of recoverable coal reserves will enable MER of the Federal coal in leases U-64375, U-49332 and U-082996 (and LMU UTU-73339) to be achieved.

**Recoverable Reserve Base:** As a result of the contemplated mining within the LMU, the overall LMU tonnage has been established as 1,730,017 tons. It is further established that all further diligent development, continued operation and /or advanced royalty requirements associated with this LMU will be based on the newly established tonnage of 1,730,017.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** No new surface disturbance is predicted with this action, and therefore this action is Categorically Excluded (CX) from NEPA analysis under DM 516 chapter 11.5, paragraph F. (8): Approval of minor modifications to, or minor variances from, activities described in an approved underground or surface mine plan for leasable minerals. (e.g., change in mining sequence or timing.)

This R2P2 modification complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at CFR 3480, and the lease terms and conditions. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff McKenzie at the Utah State Office at (801) 539-4038 or Steve Rigby at the Price Field Office at (435) 636-3604.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger L. Bankert

Roger Bankert  
Chief, Branch of Minerals

Enclosure:

Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-070, Price Field Office (w/ Enclosure)  
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (w/o Enclosure)  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

InterwestR2P2approvalJM-SA-7-15-10