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

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July 17, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: David Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Mid-Term Permit Review, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, ACT/015/015, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

A review of the Emery Deep Mine Plan revealed that several maps were labeled confidential. Utah Coal Rule R645-301-525 provides a means for the Division protecting confidential information, however, it defers to rule R645-300-124 which describes which types of information can be held confidential. Coal seam information found in the permit application is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of the Division Order.

The information submitted by the applicant in Plates V-17 to V-26 does not contain information which qualify them to be held confidential.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-525

R645-301-525.270. Within a schedule approved by the Division, the operator will submit a detailed plan of the underground workings. The detailed plan will include maps and descriptions, as appropriate, of significant features of the underground mine, including the size, configuration, and approximate location of pillars and entries, extraction ratios, measure taken to prevent or minimize subsidence and related damage, areas of full extraction, and other information

required by the Division. Upon request of the operator, information submitted with the detailed plan may be held as confidential, in accordance with the requirements of R645-300-124.

Analysis:

The applicant submitted Plates V-17 to V-26 which identify the parameters of the coal seams. Only physical properties of the coal seams are shown, no information is portrayed on the Plates related to the chemistry or physical properties of the coal.

Mining Facilities Maps

Rule 645-301-525.270 require detailed plans and provides the means of holding information confidential, in accordance with R645-300-124.

Rule R645-300-124 requires that confidential information contain chemical or physical properties of the coal seam.

R645-300-124.300. Confidentiality. The Division will provide procedures, including notice and opportunity to be heard for persons both seeking and opposing disclosure, to ensure confidentiality of qualified confidential information, which will be clearly identified by the applicant and submitted separately from the remainder of the application. Confidential information is limited to:

R645-300-124.310. Information that pertains only to the analysis of the chemical and physical properties of the coal to be mined, except information on components of such coal which are potentially toxic in the environment.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirement for confidentiality.

RECOMMENDATION:

The confidential label stamped on Plates V-17 through V-26 should be crossed out and the Plates displayed as normal public information in the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Design Criteria and Plans.

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-740

R645-301-742.312.3 Prevent, to the extent possible using the best technology currently available, additional contributions of suspended solids to streamflow outside the permit area.

Analysis:

Disturbed areas on the minesite include the mine pad and ancillary areas in the vicinity of the mine portals, a coal storage pad, access roads to sediment ponds and monitoring wells.

The applicant is required to minimize impacts by controlling erosion and prevent sediment loading to receiving streams.

Findings:

The applicant describes strategies and techniques in Chapter II, IV and VI for protecting wildlife and habitat and controlling sediment to receiving streams. The applicant uses the term best practical management in establishing sediment control structures such as diversion (Appendix VI-6), mine water settling ponds and sediment control ponds (Appendix VI-7). Alternate sediment control areas are discussed in Appendix VI-8 which consist of catch basins, berms and silt fences.

The applicant has established a monitoring plan and schedule in Chapter VI to test and evaluate levels of sediment loading.

RECOMMENDATION:

The applicant has established the required means for best technology currently available, however, the applicant should check and update the text to incorporate the definition to describe best technology currently available to minimize disturbances and adverse impacts to fish and wildlife and related environmental values during coal mining and reclamation operations.