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

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May 7, 2002

Tim Kirschbaum, Environmental Engineer
Consolidation Coal Company
P.O. Box 566
Sesser, Illinois 62884

Re: Approval of 4th East Portal Blasting Plan, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/015-AM02A, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Kirschbaum:

The above-referenced amendment is approved. However, this does not authorize you to proceed with construction on the 4th East Portal. On the ground disturbance can only occur after all clearances have been obtained.

A stamped incorporated copy of the approved plans is enclosed for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our Technical Analysis is also enclosed.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5268.

Sincerely,

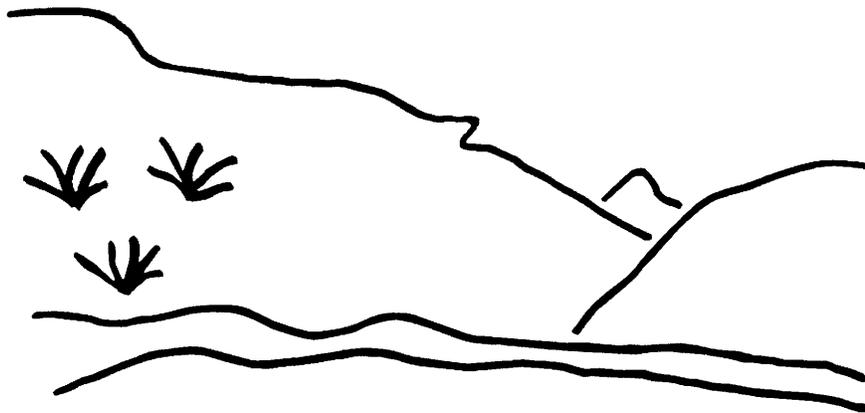
for 
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

an
Enclosure

cc: Ranvir Singh, OSM
Tom Rasmussen, BLM
Mark Page, Water Rights w/o
Dave Ariotti, DEQ w/o
Derris Jones, DWR w/o
Price Field Office

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State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Emery Deep Mine
4th East Portal Excavation
C/015/015-02A
Technical Analysis
April 29, 2002

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INTRODUCTION

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Emery Deep Mine has submitted a blasting plan to be used for the development of the 4th East Portals. The location is approximately three miles from the town of Emery, Utah. The permittee plans to use explosives from the day after the Division gives approval till October 1, 2002. It is anticipated that several shots will use five pounds or more of explosives.

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INTRODUCTION

OPERATION PLAN

OPERATION PLAN

USE OF EXPLOSIVES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 817.61, 817.62, 817.64, 817.66, 817.67, 817.68; R645-301-524.

Minimum Regulatory Requirements:

General Requirements

These requirements apply to surface blasting activities incident to underground coal mining, including, but not limited to, initial rounds of slopes and shafts. Each operator shall comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in the use of explosives.

All surface blasting operations incident to underground mining shall be conducted under the direction of a certified blaster. Certificates of blaster certification shall be carried by blasters or shall be on file at the permit area during blasting operations. A blaster and at least one other person shall be present at the firing of a blast. Any blaster who is responsible for conducting blasting operations at a blasting site shall be familiar with the site-specific performance standards and give direction and on-the-job training to persons who are not certified and who are assigned to the blasting crew or assist in the use of explosives.

An anticipated blast design shall be submitted if blasting operations will be conducted within 1,000 feet of any building used as a dwelling, public building, school, church or community or institutional building or 500 feet of active or abandoned underground mines. The blast design may be presented as part of a permit application or at a time, before the blast, approved by the Division. The blast design shall contain sketches of the drill patterns, delay periods, and decking and shall indicate the type and amount of explosives to be used, critical dimensions, and the location and general description of structures to be protected, as well as a discussion of design factors to be used, which protect the public and meet the applicable airblast, flyrock, and ground-vibration standards. The blast design shall be prepared and signed by a certified blaster. The Division may require changes to the design submitted.

Preblasting survey

At least 30 days before initiation of blasting, the operator shall notify, in writing, all residents or owners of dwellings or other structures located within 1/2 mile of the permit area how to request a preblasting survey. A resident or owner of a dwelling or structure within 1/2 mile of any part of the permit area may request a preblasting survey. This request shall be made, in writing, directly to the operator or to the Division, who shall promptly notify the operator. The operator shall promptly conduct a preblasting survey of the dwelling or structure and promptly prepare a written report of the survey. An updated survey of any additions, modifications, or renovations shall be performed by the operator if requested by the resident or owner.

The operator shall determine the condition of the dwelling or structure and shall document any preblasting damage and other physical factors that could reasonably be affected by the blasting. Structures such as pipelines, cables, and transmission lines, and cisterns, wells, and other water systems warrant special attention; however, the assessment of these structures may be limited to surface conditions and other readily available data. The written report of the survey shall be signed by the person who conducted the survey. Copies of the report shall be promptly provided to the Division and to the person requesting the survey. If the person requesting the survey disagrees with the contents and/or recommendations contained therein, he or she may submit to both the operator and the Division a detailed description of the specific areas of disagreement. Any surveys requested more than 10 days before the planned initiation of blasting shall be completed by the operator before the initiation of blasting.

Blasting signs, warnings, and access control

The operator shall conspicuously place signs reading "Blasting Area" along the edge of any blasting area that comes within 100 feet of any public-road right-of-way, and at the point where any other road provides access to the blasting area and at all entrances to the permit area from public roads or highways, place conspicuous signs which state "Warning! Explosives in Use," which clearly list and describe the meaning of the audible blast warning and all-clear signals that are in use, and which explain the marking of blasting areas and charged holes awaiting firing within the permit area.

Warning and all-clear signals of different character or pattern that are audible within a range of 1/2 mile from the point of the blast shall be given. Each person within the permit area and each person who resides or regularly works within 1/2 mile of the permit area shall be notified of the meaning of the signals in the blasting notification.

OPERATION PLAN

Access within the blasting areas shall be controlled to prevent presence of livestock or unauthorized persons during blasting and until an authorized representative of the operator has reasonably determined that no unusual hazards, such as imminent slides or undetonated charges, exist and access to and travel within the blasting area can be safely resumed.

Control of adverse effects

Blasting shall be conducted to prevent injury to persons, damage to public or private property outside the permit area, adverse impacts on any underground mine, and change in the course, channel, or availability of surface or ground water outside the permit area.

Airblast shall not exceed the maximum limits specified in the regulations at the location of any dwelling, public building, school, church, or community or institutional building outside the permit area. The maximum airblast and ground-vibration standards shall not apply at structures owned by the permittee and not leased to another person or at structures owned by the permittee and leased to another person, if a written waiver by the lessee is submitted to the Division before blasting.

Flyrock travelling in the air or along the ground shall not be cast from the blasting site: more than one-half the distance to the nearest dwelling or other occupied structure; beyond the area of control; or beyond the permit boundary.

In all blasting operations, except as otherwise authorized, the maximum ground vibration shall not exceed the values approved by the Division. All structures in the vicinity of the blasting area, such as water towers, pipelines and other utilities, tunnels, dams, impoundments, and underground mines shall be protected from damage by establishment of a maximum allowable limit on the ground vibration, submitted by the operator and approved by the Division before the initiation of blasting.

The maximum allowable ground vibration shall be reduced by the Division beyond the limits otherwise provided by this section, if determined necessary to provide damage protection. The Division may require an operator to conduct seismic monitoring of any or all blasts and may specify the location at which the measurements are taken and the degree of detail necessary in the measurement.

Records of blasting operations

The operator shall retain a record of all blasts for at least 3 years. Upon request, copies of these records shall be made available to the Division and to the public for inspection.

Analysis:

General

The permittee must have a certified blaster and one other person present at each firing of a blast.

The permittee has a site-specific blast plan. Shawn Miller a certified blaster badge No. 210 has signed the blasting plan. This plan contains a sketch, and all critical dimensions and information to protect the public.

Pre-Blasting Survey

The permittee has conducted a preblast survey. There are residents or owners of dwellings or structures within ½ mile of the permit area. The residence and owners have waived their right to a preblast survey prior to 30 days of the initial blast. Signed copies of the waivers are on file at the permit area.

The nearest private building to the blast site is approximately 2.7 miles.

OPERATION PLAN

All blast will be conducted between sunrise and sunset. The Division has not granted nighttime blasting in this approval. The operator has not made a showing that the public will be protected from adverse noise and other impacts.

A blasting schedule will be posted at the Emery Deep Mine, and copies sent to Local Government. The schedule is Monday thru Sunday between the hours of 8:00 am – 6:00pm.

Blasting Signs, Warnings and Access Control

The permittee will place blasting signs along the edge of the blasting area. Signs will be placed at all accessible entrances to the blasting area that are within the permit area from the public road stating "Blasting Area" and "Warning! Explosives in Use." Access control (flag personnel) will be exercised preventing anyone from entering the blasting area.

Control of Adverse Effects

There are no buildings or structures within 1/2 mile of the blast site. The nearest structure to the blast site is 2.7 miles and is not on the same horizon of the 4th East Portals. However, the blasting plan takes into account a power line 3/4 of a mile away. The Division sees no impact to these structures from an air blast.

The operator has a blasting design to take into account measures to prevent flyrock from being cast beyond the permit boundary. The blaster will be doing pre-splitting of the rock to reduce the possibility flyrock from going outside the permit area. The pre-splitting of the rock should reduce the pressure of the blast to prevent fly rock from leaving the permit area. The blast is only several hundred feet from the permit boundary. The certified blaster has stated no blasting mats will be used.

The power line is 3/4 miles from the blast. The permittee will use Maximum Peak-Particle Velocity of 1-inch with a scale distance factor of 55 (Ds) see page 67 in the R645 Coal Rules. The operator will use the scaled-distance equation for not exceeding ground vibration.

Record of Blasting Operations

The permittee will keep records of all blasts and maintain the records at the mine site for three years. A copy of the blasting record is on Page 12 of this amendment. This document, when filled out correctly, will comply with R645-301-524.700 (Records of Blasting Operation).

Findings:

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section in the R645 Coal Rules.

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OPERATION PLAN

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