

# EXPLORATION TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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October 13, 2006

TO: Internal File

FROM: Stephen J. Demczak, Environmental Scientist/Engineering, Team Lead *SJD by an*

RE: Minor Coal Exploration, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/0015, Task ID #2670, Outgoing File

## SUMMARY:

The applicant has submitted a Minor Exploration Plan to drill three holes. Consolidation Coal Company owns the surface property for two-drill holes locations and the other drill hole will be on Lloyd Jensen surface property.

There will be less than 250 tons of coal take out of these holes.

The applicant plans on starting drilling in September of 2006 and will be finished by the end of December 2006.

## EXPLORATION TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

### COAL EXPLORATION

Regulatory Reference: R645-200.

### SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.1; 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-400; R645-200-100; R645-200-200; R645-201-100.

#### Analysis:

Consolidation Coal Company has submitted a Letter of Intent to conduct minor coal exploration. The permittee will remove less than 250 tons of coal. The applicant will drill only one hole on Fee Ground.

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**Findings:**

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT MINOR  
COAL EXPLORATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.10; 30 CFR 772.11; R645-100-412; R645-201-200.

**Analysis:**

The applicant has given the required name and address and the responsible representative for conducting minor exploration.

Consolidation Coal will extract less than 250 tons of coal.

The permittee plans to conduct exploration on August 15, 2006, and plans to complete the project by December 15, 2006.

The applicant owns the surface of the exploration area including the roads to the site.

The applicant will disturb 0.2 acres per hole. The total is 0.6 acres.

**Findings:**

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section.

**COMPLIANCE DUTIES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202.

**Analysis:**

The applicant will have a copy of the Letter of Intent on hand.

**Findings:**

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section.

## **OPERATIONAL STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-100.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Roads**

The applicant will upgrade or build small extensions (fingers) to existing roads to gain access to the drill sites. These extensions will be reclaimed after the drilling is completed.

The application meets the hydrology Operational Standards for roads as provided in R645-202-232 (R645-301-742.410 through R645-301-742.420, R645-301-752.200, and R645-301-762).

#### **Diversions of Overland flows and streams**

The applicant will not be crossing any overland flows or streams to gain access to the drill sites. The drill pads will not be located in overland flow areas.

#### **Hydrologic Balance**

The application meets the hydrology Operational Standards for hydrologic balance as provided in **R645-202-235**. The application states that the coal exploration will be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. During exploration, the surface disturbance will be minimal. The surface disturbance will be primarily associated with efforts to level the rig and associated structures. Since surface disturbance will be minimized, no additional runoff during precipitation events is anticipated. No impoundments to contain runoff will be necessary.

#### **Acid- or toxic forming materials**

No acid and toxic material is anticipated, however, if drilling fluids are required a portable mud pit will be used. Cuttings will be moved to a State-approved landfill.

### **Findings:**

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section.

## **RECLAMATION STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-200.

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**Analysis:**

**Approximate original contour**

The applicant will return the drill pads and constructed roads to approximate original contour.

**Boreholes**

The permittee plans to reclaim all holes by cementing from ground level to the bottom of the drill hole. A brass tag will be placed in the top of the cement plug.

**Facilities and Equipment**

The permittee will remove all equipment and facilities once drill is completed.

**Findings:**

The applicant has requested that the cultural information be kept away from the public.

## **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.15;R645-203.

**Analysis:**

The applicant has requested that the cultural information be kept away from the public.

**Findings:**

The permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The applicant has met the minimum requires of conducting Minor Coal Exploration.