



July 27, 2000

*Incoming*

Utah Coal Program  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Attn: Pam Grubaugh-Littig

Subject: **Response to Deficiencies for Legal, Financial, PacifiCorp, Des-Bee-Dove Mine, ACT/015/017-LF00B, Outgoing File, Emery County, Utah**

PacifiCorp, by and through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Energy West Mining Company ("Energy West") as mine operator, hereby submits responses to the deficiencies of the above referenced amendment.

The attached document attempts to answer deficiencies in the order they were received. The Division's findings will be first listed by regulation and deficiency. PacifiCorp will follow by a response in *italics*. Other information pertinent to this response document is located in the attachments 1 through 6.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please contact myself at (435) 687-4720 or Dennis Oakley at (435) 687-4825.

Sincerely,

Chuck Semborski  
Permitting/Geology Supervisor

Enclosure: Response to Technical Analysis Deficiencies  
Attachments 1 through 6

Cc: Scott Child (Interwest Mining Company)  
Carl Pollastro (Energy West Mining Company)  
File

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINING

## Response to Technical Analysis Deficiencies

The following responses to deficiencies are formatted as found in the technical analysis document. They are broken down into logical section headings similar to the R645 regulations. In each section, the regulation number along with the associated deficiency is followed by the permittee's italicized response.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Ownership and Control

**R645-301-112.340**, the ownership and control information must include an employer identification number for coal mining and reclamation operations owned or controlled by PacifiCorp.

*The Employer I.D. Number has been added in Section R645-301-400 as highlighted text. Please review the redlined and clean copy in Attachment 1.*

#### Violation Information

**R645-301-113**, Interwest Mining Company must be identified in Section R645-301-112 or the title of the NOV table changed.

*PacifiCorp is in agreement with this finding and has changed the title in the NOV table. The table in Appendix B of R645-301-100 has been replaced. Please review the redlined and clean copy in Attachment 2.*

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

#### Maps, Plan, and Cross Sections of Resource Information

**R645-301-521**, information contained on Maps 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 need to show the proposed permit area, including the escapeway portal breakouts. Because the area within the breakouts is so small these areas may need a comment label showing them included in the permit area.

*PacifiCorp agrees with this deficiency. However, there are in excess of ten maps within the Des-Bee-Dove MRP that will need updated to show the new permit boundary. In a conversation with Wayne Western on July 5, 2000, an verbal agreement was made to update all affected maps at a later date. An amendment to update these maps will proceed when the new boundary is approved.*

## **OPERATION PLAN**

### **Subsidence Control Plan**

**R645-301-560 and R645-301-525**, an analysis of observed versus projected subsidence impacts, and a discussion of how any subsidence-caused material damage was prevented or mitigated must be provided.

*Subsidence on East Mountain has been monitored since 1982. Eighteen Annual Subsidence Reports have been published which show subsidence trends throughout the affected area. These reports show that some areas within the Des-Bee-Dove permit area have subsided in excess of seven feet. No damage has been reported as a result of the subsidence. Refer to pages 41-51, and 60 -65 of the 1999 Annual Subsidence Report.*

*On pages 7 and 10 of the Supplemental Information for the Relinquishment of Federal Acreage, East Mountain Logical Unit, June 12, 1995, information for federal leases SL-066116 and U-02664 on subsidence, hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife is addressed for relinquishment purposes. The former federal lease details that no subsidence has been detected since 1984. This area subsided approximately six feet with discernable impacts. Subsidence in this area is reported to be substantially complete.*

*In the latter federal lease, subsidence reached a maximum of three feet and has not chanced since 1992. This area is also reported to be substantially complete.*

*Federal lease SL-050133 was relinquished on March 9, 1993. No mining was ever conducted in this area. Letters from the USFS and DOGM state that there is no reason to retain this area within the permit area. Copies of the referenced letters are submitted as Attachment 3.*

### **Hydrologic Information**

**R645-301-750**, an analysis must be provided assessing hydrology data relative to the impact projections contained within the PHC and CHIA. The analysis must show that onsite impacts have been minimized and that offsite impacts have been prevented.

*According to the PHC and CHIA, projected hydrological impacts associated with the Des-Bee-Dove Mine are negligible. Raw data, though, is found in the 1999 Annual Hydrologic Report. Supportive information is found in the Supplemental Information for the Relinquishment of Federal Acreage, East Mountain Logical Unit, June 12, 1995 on pages 7 and 10-11.*

*The only spring found within the Des-Bee-Dove Mine permit area is 82-51. This spring has shown no change due to mining. The spring fluctuates proportionately with precipitation. Table 29 in the 1999 Annual Hydrologic Report documents spring flow since 1983. Appendix H of this same report compares the spring flow of 82-51 and precipitation. The figure illustrates a close relationship of the two parameters. A copy of the table and figure is supplied in Attachment 4.*

*Underground mining in the Des-Bee-Dove Mine has never intercepted groundwater and, therefore, no water has ever been discharged from the portals into the ephemeral drainages. No surface water impacts due to mining has ever been reported within the Des-Bee-Dove permit area.*

## **RECLAMATION PLAN**

### **General Requirements**

**R645-301-640**, documentation must be provided that all subsidence monuments have been removed. Documentation must be provided that all wells or bore holes have been cased, capped, sealed, backfilled, or approved for transfer.

*As mentioned earlier, subsidence monitoring has been conducted annually for the past eighteen years. Historically, the method for monitoring subsidence has been aerial photogrammetry surveys and helicopter reconnaissance flights. No monuments were ever installed for the purposes of subsidence monitoring.*

*Not all exploration hole sealing was witnessed by the BLM. However, a letter from BLM states their satisfaction that all drill holes have been plugged and reclaimed. Exploration holes CM-3 and CM-6 were examined by Mr. Allen Vance from the USGS in 1977. His 1977 letter, along with a BLM letter dated July 20, 1992 is attached in Attachment 5.*

*Also in Attachment 5 is the daily drilling report for exploration hole CM-5 and a water observance report and a Coal Exploration Drilling Summary from the BLM for CM-7. The CM-5 report shows that the hole was plugged on June 26, 1977. The CM-7 report*

*shows that the hole was cemented from collar to total depth on October 8, 1981 and witnessed by Tim Abing. No record could be found for CM-1.*

## **Postmining Land Uses**

**UCA 40-10-2(2) and R645-301-413**, the application must contain a description of how the land has met the stated postmining land use and how the mined land has met the surface owner or surface manager plans and programs described in the permit.

*PacifiCorp sent a letter to Jeff Defreest of the USFS requesting a formal document stating that PacifiCorp has met post mining land use criteria within the Des-Bee-Dove Mine permit area (refer to Attachment 6). Carter Reed, in an e-mail document (also refer to Attachment 6) dated July 21, 2000 responded to this technical analysis stating that before the USFS "...can make a final land use determination, [they] need to review the information on subsidence and hydrology."*

*The information present in this response document will suffice, according to Mr. Reed, as the USFS's review material. Upon receiving this document, the Division needs to forward it to the USFS.*