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

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August 4, 2000

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron R. Haddock, Permit Supervisor DRH

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist WHW

RE: Review of PacifiCorp Response to Division Order 2000A for Cottonwood / Wilberg Mine, ACT/015/019, Trail Mountain Mine ACT/015/009, Des-Bee-Dove ACT/015/017, Deer Creek Mine ACT/015/018

SUMMARY:

The Division issued Division Order 2000A to PacifiCorp. The Division Order required the permittee to submit legal descriptions for all the PacifiCorp Mines. In a letter dated March 30, 2000 PacifiCorp responded to the Division Order. The Division found the response to be adequate and recommends that the permittee incorporate the legal descriptions into the corresponding Mining and Reclamation Plans (MRPs).

OPERATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Analysis:

Affected area maps

The affected area map is often synonymous with the permit area map. Since all disturbance in the PacifiCorp mines is scheduled to occur in the permit area, the Division will consider the permit area maps to be the same as the affected area maps. To verify the permit boundaries, the Division required the permittee to give legal descriptions for all of their coal mines.

In Division Order 2000A the Division required the permittee to provide the fallowing:

FINDINGS OF PERMIT DEFICIENCY

A review of the current Reclamation Agreement and Mining and Reclamation Plan has revealed permit deficiencies. In summary, the Division finds under:

R645-301-110, R645-301-140 and R645-301-521. The permit area maps, legal descriptions and legal notices do not accurately reflect the permit area. In order for Cottonwood/Wilberg mine to be in compliance, PacifiCorp must provide:

1) an accurate description of the boundaries of land for the permit and surface disturbance areas, and 2) revise permit maps and text. Attached is the specific information outlining discrepancies in the legal description.

ORDER

PacifiCorp is ordered to make the requisite permit or Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) changes:

2. Provide an accurate legal description of the land with the permit area and surface disturbance area in accordance with R645-301-111.200, R645-301-114, R645-301-140, R645-301-521.121 and R645-301-521.140 & -.141.

On March 31, 2000, the Division received the permittee's response. The Division and the permittee have verified the permit boundaries and legal descriptions. That information must be incorporated into the MRP for each coal mine.

The permittee needs to incorporate the legal descriptions into the respective MRPs. Once the MRPs are updated the Division Order should be terminated.

Findings:

The permittee met the requirements of Division Order 2000A with respect to giving the Division adequate legal descriptions for the permit areas of each of the PacifiCorp mines. The permittee needs to incorporate the legal descriptions into the respective MRPs before Division Order 2000A can be terminated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ask the permittee to incorporate the revised legal descriptions into the respective MRPs so that Division Order 2000A can be terminated.

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