



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Oil, Gas & Mining

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
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May 6, 1983

Mr. C. E. Shingleton
Director of Services
Mining and Exploration
Utah Power & Light Company
P. O. Box 899
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

RE: Meetinghouse Lease Modification
Deer Creek Mine
ACT/015/018A
Folder No. 3
Emery County, Utah

Dear Mr. Shingleton:

The Division has completed its initial review of the application for addition of the Meetinghouse Lease to the Deer Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan. Before proceeding further with the review process, the need has been identified for more detailed information in certain areas, as is outlined below.

As was communicated to you by telephone at an earlier date, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has concluded that the addition of the Meetinghouse Lease to the Deer Creek Mine Plan constitutes a mining plan modification under 30 CFR 746.18(d)(4) (effective March 18, 1983) and, as such, requires approval by the Secretary. The OSM has recommended that, since Utah Power & Light Company's (UP&L) permit application for the Deer Creek Mine has not yet been approved and both the mine plan and the lease modification at hand will require Secretarial approval, the applicant should combine the Meetinghouse Lease application with the Deer Creek Mining Plan application. If this approach is followed, UP&L may respond to the additional information requested below at the same time that the Apparent Completeness Review (ACR) response for the Deer Creek Mining Plan is submitted to the Division. However, expeditious approval of the addition of the Meetinghouse Lease to the Deer Creek Mining Plan, i.e., as a modification to the existing interim 211 permit, does not appear to be possible at this time due to the position of the OSM. The Division will inform you of any change in this position.

Mr. C. E. Shingleton
ACT/015/018A
May 6, 1983
Page 2

UMC 783.14 Geology Description

Have core samples in this new lease been analyzed for pyrite, marcasite and sulfate content of the coal? If results of such tests are substantially different from those tests made on coal for the mine application, provide those results as part of this modification.

UMC 783.25 Cross-Sections, Maps and Plans

The applicant should have the following maps approved by a registered professional engineer or geologist: CM-10396DR; CM 10410DR; CE-10424-EM; CE-10469-EM; CE-10437-EM; CE-10470-EM; CE-10434-EM; CE-10471-EM; CE-10404-EM; and, CE-10123-EM.

UMC 784.11 Operation Plan

The applicant should indicate how breakthrough of the ventilation portals will be accomplished. Will there be a portal pad at any one of the breakouts? If so, of what dimensions? Will there be any equipment or facilities on the pads?

UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan: General Requirements

How much total surface disturbance will be associated with the ventilation breakouts and what measures will be taken to reclaim these breakout areas? A description, including appropriate cross-sections and maps, of the measures to be used to seal the mine (ventilation) openings is needed.

It should also be noted by the applicant that any revegetation must be done with the concurrence of the Division as well as the U. S. Forest Service.

UMC 784.19 Underground Development Waste

Though reference is made back to the overall mine plan for the handling of underground development waste, the Division requests that the applicant specify, in detail, what is intended for the handling of underground development waste associated with this lease development, particularly in light of the rock slopes which will be constructed. Will this waste rock be disposed of underground, hauled to the surface for disposal at the minesite, hauled to an approved site elsewhere, etc.?

Mr. C. E. Shingleton
ACT/015/018A
May 6, 1983
Page 3

UMC 784.20 Subsidence Control Plan

Prior to retreat mining of this section, the applicant must establish subsidence monitoring stations over the panels to be mined out and include this area as part of the annual subsidence monitoring report submitted to the Division.

Hydrology

1. UP&L should present a monitoring plan to ascertain any potential changes to stream flow while mining under Meetinghouse Creek. Baseline data on stream flows should be collected by UP&L, before mining commences to ascertain seasonal trends in flow. Use of a wier and a water level recorder would provide a good means of monitoring seasonal trends. Effective placement of these hydrologic monitoring devices could be coordinated with Division hydrologists to ascertain their best placement in relation to mining corridors.

This monitoring should be continued for several years after mining has passed under the South Fork of Meetinghouse Creek to determine if any potential changes in flow could result due to mining under the Creek.

2. A certain portion of the South Fork of Meetinghouse Creek will be mined under in the future. How will this section of the creek be protected from subsidence?
3. What is the amount of overburden between the top of the mineable coal seam and the bottom of the stream channel?

What does the geologic cross-section look like between the top of the mineable coal seam and the bottom of the stream channel? What are the impeding layers to downward ground water percolation and how thick are they?

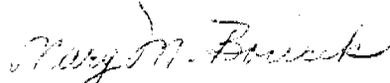
4. Monitoring of in-mine ground water flows should be checked closely to detect any sudden increases in ground water flows.

When the addition of the Meetinghouse Lease to the mine plan is approved, it is anticipated that the approval will be conditional upon notification of the Division of the timing and exact location of ventilation breakouts well in advance of the actual occurrence to ensure adequate environmental protection. It is hoped that a timely approval, meeting the needs of both UP&L and the regulatory authorities will be possible.

Mr. C. E. Shingleton
ACT/015/018A
May 6, 1983
Page 4

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the
Division.

Sincerely,



MARY M. BOUCEK
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

MMB/btb

cc: Allen Klein, OSM
J. Smith, DOGM
C. Young, DOGM
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