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July 13, 1998

To: File

Thru: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor-Compliance *JH*

From: Peter Hess, Reclamation Specialist III *PHH*

RE: Federal Coal Lease Modification #2, Lease U-06039, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, ACT/015/018-IBC-98A, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

SUMMARY:

Energy West Mining Company is proposing to increase the acreage of lease U-06039 by 40 acres in order to recover what reserves are minable within the area. If this increase is not granted, (SMA is U.S. Forest Service, USBLM manages reserves), the reserves will be lost, as the Deer Creek operation is the only viable operation capable of extracting these reserves. The reserves cannot be recovered by another mine, as approximately 40 percent of same exist within the Mill Fork graben area, (SE1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 20, T.17S., R.7E).

This increase is the second to be applied for, the first (42.97 acres) being granted by the USBLM on May 16, 1995.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

PROPOSED MINE PLAN

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-511, General Requirements, et.al.

As indicated by comparing drawings CM-10899-DR versus DU-1752-D, the approval of this lease modification will allow the permittee to extract an additional 700 lineal feet (approximate) of longwall panel. This will not only improve the recovered tonnage from lease U-024317, but will enhance the overall recovered tons by the addition of the tonnage mined from the 40 acres. The approval of this modification is in the best interest of the public in that the resource will achieve maximum recoverability. No secondary extraction is being planned within the 40 acre lease modification to U-06039.



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Analysis:

Modification to Mine Plan

The approval of this lease modification will allow the primary development of mine entries farther west than originally anticipated improving the percentage of recoverable tons from the longwall panel. There will be no changes in mining methods as currently practiced by Energy West Mining Company.

Findings:

The requirements of this section of the R645 regulations are considered adequate in regard to R645-301-511.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-525.200

From looking at map CM-10367-DR, Deer Creek Coal Mine, Mine Permit Area With Mine Development As Of August 3, 1977, Blind Canyon Coal Seam, the NW corner of the area of the requested modification is approximately 900 feet from the coal outcrop in Mill Fork Canyon. I believe that it is safe to assume that (again, no secondary extraction is being planned), the impacts induced from mining in the area will be negligible.

Analysis:

First mining in the approved lease modification area should not induce any subsidence related impacts. The requirements of this section of the R645 regulations are considered adequate with regard to the proposed permit change.

Findings:

This submittal is adequate with regard to R645-301-525.200.

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RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that, pending completion, acceptance and approval of the environmental assessment and other pertinent documents relative to this lease modification by the U. S. Forest Service and the United States Bureau of Land Management that the 40 acre increase to U-06039 be approved as submitted. The requirements of the R645 -301-500, Engineering section of the R645 regulations have been met.

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