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# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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# RECEIVED

JUN 26 2000

JUN 28 2000

Mr. Steven E. Kochevar, P. E.  
Mine Planning Administrator  
Interwest Mining Company  
One Utah Center, Suite 2000  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84140-0200

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS AND MINERALS

*FAX PFO*

Re: Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), 5<sup>th</sup> North Mains and 15<sup>th</sup> East Longwall Panel, North Rilda Canyon Area, Deer Creek Mine.

*ACT/015/018  
becoming*

Dear Mr. Kochevar:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received a number of mine plan changes regarding mine planning in the subject area. A finalized document for these changes was received in our office on April 13, 2000. These changes are a result of development mining encountering differing conditions and the Forest Service determining no significant impact from full extraction mining under the south facing cliffs of Rilda Canyon. These proposed changes to the R2P2 are located on Federal coal leases U-06039, U-024317, SL-051221, and U-2810 at the Deer Creek Mine.

Interwest has submitted a final configuration of the mine plan for the subject area showing the bearing of the 5<sup>th</sup> North Mains and the layout of the 15<sup>th</sup> East Longwall panel. The 5<sup>th</sup> North Mains were projected to continue on the original northeast bearing to access the north extent of the property and avoid the sandstone channel scour zone on the west edge of the entries. The proposed 15<sup>th</sup> East longwall panel has been narrowed and situated to avoid burnt coal zones extending south from the Mill Fork Canyon outcrop, which zone was discovered from underground exploration drilling. The proposed mine plan configuration projects mining that maximizes longwall recovery and avoids the outcrop burn.

Interwest has closely informed the BLM of the progress of the 5<sup>th</sup> North Mains extension knowing that the bearing of the entries could change based on the possibility of geologic conditions. An attempt to change the heading of 5<sup>th</sup> North and turn more to the north to lengthen the north-most longwall panels was thwarted when development of the 5<sup>th</sup> North entries encountered a fluvial sandstone channel system that has scoured the coal down to 5.5 feet and less. 5<sup>th</sup> North development then reverted back to the north-east heading, following the edge of the channel system. BLM inspectors granted verbal approvals to these changes and formal submission of mine plan modifications were recommended to wait until development of 5<sup>th</sup> North was complete in case further changes arose due to the unknown extent of the channel system.

The final configuration of the 15<sup>th</sup> East longwall panel was submitted based on the results of a horizontal exploration drilling project to tag the extent of the outcrop burn. The drilling showed that the 15<sup>th</sup> East gateroad could be mined 350 feet north of 14<sup>th</sup> East and avoid the burnt coal extending south from Mill Fork Canyon. The BLM agrees with the 15<sup>th</sup> East longwall configuration and verbal approval to start 15<sup>th</sup> East gateroad development was granted.

A final aspect to the mining in the North Rilda Canyon coal block is the authorization from Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for full-extraction mining underneath the north side escarpment of Rilda Canyon after the Forest Service's decision of no significant impact. The approved R2P2 for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> East longwall panels under the escarpment was given conditional approval by the BLM contingent on the authorization from the regulatory agency that would allow full extraction mining under escarpments as per lease stipulations. With these authorizations in place, the BLM is in agreement for the south longwall panels for this block.

In summary, 5<sup>th</sup> North Mains mined along the west extent of the minable coal in order to maximize the length of the east block of longwall panels, with the BLM's full authorization. The 15<sup>th</sup> East longwall panel and development configuration is approved as submitted. BLM grants a general modification to the length of the 15<sup>th</sup> East longwall panel. Interwest is authorized to mine 15<sup>th</sup> East to the extent of minable coal upon notification and verification by BLM. This general modification applies to the south longwall panels (9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> East), as the burnt coal outcrop may affect the configuration of these panels.

The BLM has determined that the proposed modifications to the R2P2 complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal will be achieved. Interwest's proposals are approved as outlined above. This approval confirms verbal approvals given previously.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,

**/S/ THOMAS E. RASMUSSEN**

**FOR** Richard L. Manus  
Field Manager

Enclosure

Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-921, SD, Utah (w/encl.)  
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801 (w/encl.)  
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