



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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

Route 2000
TRX PFE

Re: Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), 11th East Longwall Extraction Face, Deer Creek Mine.

File Act 10/15/018
Interwest

Dear Mr. Kochevar:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received on November 17, 1999, a request from Interwest to extract the 11th East longwall machinery at crosscut #6, instead of the planned extraction face at crosscut #5. This proposed change to the R2P2 is located on Federal coal lease U-06039 at the Deer Creek Mine.

Interwest requests this change based on the poor roof conditions and steep roll of the coal seam associated with a channel margin that forms a hazardous area for extracting the machinery off the longwall face. These conditions do not exist at the next inby crosscut (#6). Extracting the longwall at crosscut #6 would avoid the adverse conditions and potential safety problems.

The BLM has inspected the area and noted the adverse conditions associated with the sandstone channel in the roof. The margin of the channel was directly in the intersection of the intake entry and the proposed take out crosscut. Mudstone cap-rock was exposed in the roof and stability of the immediate roof was a concern. The dip of the seam at the crosscut would make hauling equipment around the corner hazardous, if not impossible. We agree that locating the longwall extraction entry back 100 feet at crosscut #6 would eliminate the hazards at crosscut #5 and we concur with the proposal.

The BLM has determined that the proposed modification 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 proposal to extract the longwall machinery at crosscut #6 is approved as submitted. This approval confirms verbal approval given during the inspection.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (801) 636-3600.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. RASMUSSEN

Acting FOR Richard L. Manus
Field Manager

Enclosure
Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-935, SD, Utah (w/encl.)
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801 (w/encl.)

