



State of Utah
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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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ok

October 9, 2001

Chuck Semborski, Environmental Supervisor
Energy West Mining Company
P.O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 84528

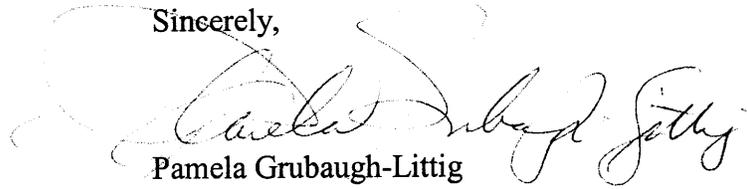
Re: Approval of Portal Sealing Plans, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/018-AM01H,
Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Semborski:

The above-referenced amendment is approved effective October 9, 2001. A stamped incorporated copy is enclosed for your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (801) 538-5268.

Sincerely,


Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

sjd/sd

Enclosure:

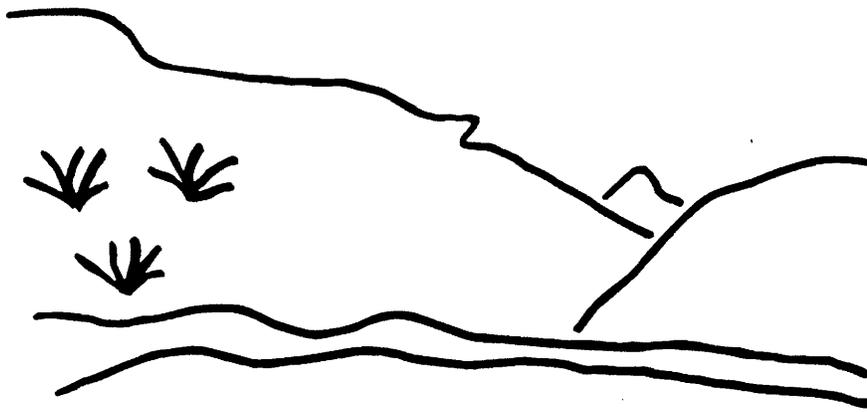
cc: Price Field Office

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cc: Joe Wilcox, OSM
Richard Manus, BLM
Elaine Zieroth, USFS (2)
Mark Page, water rights w/o
Dave Ariotti, DEQ w/o
Dennis Jones, DWR w/o
Steven Bayden SITHA w/o

SM

State of Utah



Utah Oil Gas and Mining

Coal Regulatory Program

Deer Creek Mine
Portal Sealing Plan
C/015/018-01H
Technical Analysis
October 5, 2001

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INTRODUCTION

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

The permittee has submitted an amendment to be able to close (seal) portals at the Deer Creek Mine with any type of MSHA approved sealing technique. The permittee currently can close portals off by only double block seals. This amendment gives the permittee a choice which sealing method is best to use on a case-by-case situation. The permittee is presently using these MSHA approved methods in the underground working.

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October 5, 2001

INTRODUCTION

RECLAMATION PLAN

RECLAMATION PLAN

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

Minimum Regulatory Requirements:

Provide a plan for the reclamation of the lands within the proposed permit area, showing how the applicant will comply with the regulatory program and the environmental protection performance standards. The plan shall include, at a minimum, contain the following information for the proposed permit area: a detailed timetable for the completion of each major step in the reclamation plan; a detailed estimate of the cost of the reclamation of the proposed operations required to be covered by a performance bond, with supporting calculations for the estimates; a plan for backfilling, soil stabilization, compacting, and grading, with contour maps or cross sections that show the anticipated final surface configuration of the proposed permit area; a plan for redistribution of topsoil, subsoil, and other material along with a demonstration of the suitability of topsoil substitutes or supplements shall be based upon analysis of the thickness of soil horizons, total depth, texture, percent coarse fragments, pH, and areal extent of the different kinds of soils; other chemical and physical analyses, field-site trials, or greenhouse tests if determined to be necessary or desirable to demonstrate the suitability of the topsoil substitutes or supplements may also be required; a plan for revegetation including, but not limited to, descriptions of the schedule of revegetation, species and amounts per acre of seeds and seedlings to be used, methods to be used in planting and seeding, mulching techniques, irrigation, if appropriate, and pest and disease control measures, if any, measures proposed to be used to determine the success of revegetation, and, a soil testing plan for evaluation of the results of topsoil handling and reclamation procedures related to revegetation; a description of the measures to be used to maximize the use and conservation of the coal resource; a description of measures to be employed to ensure that all debris, acid-forming and toxic-forming materials, and materials constituting a fire hazard are disposed of accordingly and a description of the contingency plans which have been developed to preclude sustained combustion of such materials; a description, including appropriate cross sections and maps, of the measures to be used to seal or manage mine openings, and to plug, case, or manage exploration holes, other bore holes, wells, and other openings within the proposed permit area; and, a description of steps to be taken to comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other applicable air and water quality laws and regulations and health and safety standards.

Analysis:

The permittee has submitted an amendment to install any type of MSHA approved seals in the portals of the Deer Creek mine. The permit now states only double block MSHA approved seals can be used to seal the portals. Any seal that is MSHA approved must meet the same standards. Therefore, there is no major difference in the integrity of the seal.

Findings:

The information provided meets the minimum requirements of this section of the R645 Coal Rules.

MINE OPENINGS

RECLAMATION PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 817.13, 817.14, 817.15; R645-301-513, -301-529, -301-551, -301-631, -301-748, -301-765, -301-748.

Minimum Regulatory Requirements:

Each exploration hole, other drillhole or borehole, shaft, well, or other exposed underground opening shall be cased, lined, or otherwise managed as approved by the Division to prevent acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground and surface waters, to minimize disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance and to ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery in the permit area and adjacent area. Each exploration hole, drill hole or borehole or well that is uncovered or exposed by mining activities within the permit area shall be permanently closed, unless approved for water monitoring or otherwise managed in a manner approved by the Division. Use of a drilled hole or monitoring well as a water well must meet the provisions required to protect the hydrologic balance. This section does not apply to holes drilled and used for blasting, in the area affected by surface operations.

Each mine entry which is temporarily inactive, but has a further projected useful service under the approved permit application, shall be protected by barricades or other covering devices, fenced, and posted with signs, to prevent access into the entry and to identify the hazardous nature of the opening. These devices shall be periodically inspected and maintained in good operating condition by the person who conducts the underground mining activities.

Each exploration hole, other drill hole or borehole, shaft, well, and other exposed underground opening which has been identified in the approved permit application for use to return underground development waste, coal processing waste or water to underground workings, or to be used to monitor ground water conditions, shall be temporarily sealed until actual use.

When no longer needed for monitoring or other use approved by the Division upon a finding of no adverse environmental or health and safety effects, or unless approved for transfer as a water well, each shaft, drift, adit, tunnel, exploratory hole, entry way or other opening to the surface from underground shall be capped, sealed, backfilled, or otherwise properly managed, as required by the Division and consistent with the requirements of 30 CFR Section 75.1711. Permanent closure measures shall be designed to prevent access to the mine workings by people, livestock, fish and wildlife, machinery and to keep acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground or surface waters.

Analysis:

The permittee has submitted an amendment to use any type of MSHA approved seal in the portals of the Deer Creek Mine. Each different type of seals being MSHA approval must meet the same criteria before being approved. Currently, the permittee is using several different types of MSHA approved seals underground. Seals which are located underground must withstand severe environmental conditions than portal seals. The seals underground are under heavier groundcover causing greater pressures to be placed on the seal.

Findings:

The information provided meets the minimum requirements of this section of the R645 Coal Rules.

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