



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 14, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Dave W. Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist/Team Lead *DW*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WHW*

RE: Incidental Permit Boundary Change for 65.7 Acres, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/018-IB01K-A

SUMMARY:

On November 28, 2001, the Division received an application for an incidental boundary change at the Deer Creek Mine. The Permittee needs the IBC for access to the Mill Fork lease. The only engineering issues that will be addressed in this memo are those associated with the addition of the IBC to the permit area. The IBC is located on 65.7 acres of U. S. Forest Service land. The additional area will allow underground access from the Deer Creek Mine to the Mill Fork State Lease Tract # ML-48258. The proposed underground access-way will consist of a set of main entries separated by pillars. No subsidence is expected to occur within the IBC area, since only first mining will be done.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

PERMIT AREA

Regulatory Requirements: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-521.

Analysis:

The Permittee proposed to add 65.70 acres to the Deer Creek mine. The additional acres are in Township 16South, Range 7 East, Section 19 Lot 2, Lot 3 and the W1/2SW1/4NE1/4 corner. The area is also shown on the following revised maps:

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- CM-10522-DR Coal Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area
- CM-10521-DR Surface Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area
- CM-10367 DR Deer Creek Mine Permit Area Map
- CM-10899 DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan, Blind Canyon Coal Seam
- CM-10900 DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan Hiawatha Coal Seam
- DU-1752D Deer Creek Mine Lease Modification Lease U-060309

The Division has reviewed the IBC description and found that they are adequate to describe the IBC.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Permit Area requirements of the regulations.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

Affected Area Boundary Maps

The Division considers the affected area to be the same as the permitted area. Several maps in the IBC application show the revised permit area including CM-10367 Deer Creek Mine Permit Area Map.

Existing Structures and Facilities Maps

There are no existing surface structures of facilities associated with the IBC area.

Existing Surface Configuration Maps

Several maps show the surface configuration of the Deer Creek IBC including CM-10522-DR Coal Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area.

Mine Workings Maps

No old mine workings exist in the IBC area. Maps CM-10899-DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan/5 Year Increments Blind Canyon Coal Seam and CM-10900-DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan 5/Year Increments Hiawatha Coal Seam show the existing and proposed mine workings.

Permit Area Boundary Maps

Several maps in the IBC application show the revised permit area including CM-10367 Deer Creek Mine Permit Area Map.

Surface and Subsurface Ownership Maps

Surface and subsurface ownership maps for the IBC are CM-10521-DR, Surface Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area and CM-10522- DR Coal Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area respectively.

Surface and subsurface manmade features maps

No surface or subsurface manmade features are associated with the IBC.

Contour Maps

Several maps show the surface configuration (contours) of the Deer Creek IBC including CM-10522-DR Coal Ownership Map of the Deer Creek Mine Permit Area.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Maps, Plans, and Cross Sections of Resource Information requirements of the regulations.

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

Type and Method of Mining Operations

The only mining that will be done in the IBC is development work for access to the Mill Fork Tract. No secondary mining (pillar recovery) will be done.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Mining Operations and Facilities requirements of the regulations.

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EXISTING STRUCTURES:

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.12; R645-301-526.

Analysis:

No structures exist in the IBC area.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Existing Structures requirements of the regulations.

COAL RECOVERY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 817.59; R645-301-522.

Analysis:

The primary reason for mining in the IBC is to gain access to the Mill Fork Tract. The Permittee proposes to first mine only in order to protect access to the Mill Fork area. The BLM has done a study (Resource Recovery Protection Plan) and determined that the Permittee is conducting mining in a way that will maximize coal recovery. The Division relied on the R2P2 for making its finding on coal recovery. The Division reviewed concurs with the R2P2 study.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Coal Recovery requirements of the regulations.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Renewable Resources Survey

The purpose of the renewable resource survey is to determine if renewable resources exist within the proposed permit area (65.7 acre IBC). While the Permittee did not conduct a renewable resource survey of the IBC area, there is enough information in the MRP to indicate that renewable resource exist in the IBC. Therefore, the subsidence control plan must include the IBC.

Subsidence Control Plan

In the submittal of Volume 11, dated February 15, 2002, the Permittee identifies, "Based on data acquired through surface coal exploration programs, Energy West developed a mine plan to access the Mill Fork State Lease with a set of 5-entry mains driven on a northwest bearing from the 6th North Mains. Mining within the Mill Fork Access corridor (IBC) will be restricted to main line development. To ensure long term stability, pillars will not be removed", Volume 11, page 12.

Page 15, Volume 11 also indicates no second mining and no subsidence, "In-place coal will be left within the Mill Fork Access area to ensure the long term stability and integrity." An evaluation of the resource information identified there should be no impacts to renewable

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Subsidence Control Plan requirements of the regulations.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Affected area maps

The Division considers the affected area to be the same as the permitted area. Several maps in the IBC application show the revised permit area including CM-10367 Deer Creek Mine Permit Area Map.

Mining facilities maps

No new mine (surface) facilities will be associated with the IBC.

Mine workings maps

No old mine workings exist in the IBC area. Maps CM-10899-DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan/5 Year Increments Blind Canyon Coal Seam and CM-10900-DR Deer Creek Mine Life of Mine Plan 5/Year Increments Hiawatha Coal Seam show the existing and proposed mine workings. Figure 1 also shows the mine workings associated with the IBC.

Drawing, CM100900-DR, November 28, 2001, of the IBC submittal, shows the sequence for development of the IBC. Development of the IBC will be conducted once the amendment is

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approved and progress through 2002 and 2003.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Maps, Plans and Cross Sections of mining operations requirements of the regulations.

RECLAMATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Affected area boundary maps

The Division usually considers the affected area to be the same as the permitted area. Several maps in the IBC application show the revised permit area including CM-10367 Deer Creek Mine Permit Area Map.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Maps, Plans and Cross Sections of reclamation operations requirements of the regulations.

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

Analysis:

Determination of bond amount

Since the Permittee will not disturb and new surface acreage or build any surface structures the Division has determined that no additional bond is needed.

Findings:

The information provided in the application meets the minimum Bonding and Insurance requirements of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the engineering sections of the 65.7-acre ICB.

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