



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: Internal File

FROM: Dave W. Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist/Team Lead 

RE: Incidental Boundary Change, Energy West Mining Company, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/018-IB01K-1

SUMMARY:

Energy West submitted an Application for Permit Change to the Division for an Incidental Boundary Change (IBC). The IBC will provide a right-of-way from the Deer Creek Mine workings and permit area to the Mill Fork Lease controlled by SITLA, which Energy West acquired in 1999. The IBC consists of a 65.7 acre adjustment to federal Lease U-06039 from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, increasing the lease from 1,387.27 acres to 1,452.97 acres.

The IBC access will consist of a set of main entries separated by pillars. Only first mining, room and pillar, will be conducted. The proposed main entries will be developed only in the Hiawatha Coal Seam. No pillars will be extracted, so the site is expected to remain stable through and after mining. No surface disturbance is expected in the area of the IBC.

The proposed entries fall within the area of the CHIA. Mill Fork Tract is being reviewed concurrently with the review for this IBC. This review was conducted using information from both the Deer Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan and the Mill Fork Lease Permit Application Package. Geologic information in the current MRP adequately covers this area - which is within the adjacent area for the current permit area - the Division is not requiring any additional geologic information for this IBC.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

Analysis:

This 65.7 acre IBC is within the adjacent area of the current Deer Creek Mine permit area. Geologic information for the mine permit area, including the IBC area, in the approved Deer Creek Mine MRP is sufficient to determine acid- and toxic-forming material and whether reclamation can be accomplished; to assist in determining the probable hydrologic consequences of the operation and whether the proposed operation has been designed to prevent material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area; and to prepare the subsidence control plan. The Division is not requiring any additional geologic information for this IBC.

Coal will be mined from the Hiawatha Seam. The main entries are shown on Drawing CM 10900-DR in the IBC submittal. It is currently planned that all coal mined in the Mill Fork Lease will be accessed and transported through the IBC mains. Coal will be mined in both the Hiawatha and Blind Canyon coal seams in the Mill Fork Lease. After the IBC mains are developed the permittee will ramp up to access the Blind Canyon coal seam.

Drawing CM 10900-DR also shows a timetable for mining the IBC and shows the geologic structure of the area. Mining of the IBC will require the permittee to cut across the Mill Fork Graben that was identified by HGI/ Water Technology and Research as a source for Little Bear Spring. Drawing CM 10900-DR shows that the permittee has mine workings near the projected fault. It is also known that the Huntington #4 Mine has conducted mining through the fault zone.

The proposed underground access-way will consist of a set of main entries separated by pillars. There is approximately 600 feet to 1400 feet of overlying strata between the coal seam and the surface. No subsidence is expected to occur within the IBC area since only first mining will be done.

Findings:

The applicant has supplied sufficient Geologic Resource Information in the IBC submittal and in the current Deer Creek Mine MRP to meet the minimum requirements of the regulations.

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.14; R645-100-200, -301-724.

Sampling and Analysis

Surface disturbance is planned. Subsidence is likely, because no second mining is planned and overlying strata is prohibitive for subsidence, ranging from 800 to 1600 feet. Therefore, no springs or surface water should be impacted from surface impacts.

The permittee plans to mine through Mill Fork Graben, a projected recharge source for Little Bear Spring. The permittee has described the relationship between the mining of the IBC and Little Bear Spring. The applicant identified that no impacts should occur to Little Bear Spring since the area of the IBC doesn't appear to be the recharge source to the spring. Studies conducted by Mayo and Associates and by HGI/Water Technology and Research, and both concluded that the majority of recharge flows through the Mill Fork Fault Zone from the stream in Mill Fork. Mining in the Beaver Creek #4 Mine intercepted the Mill Fork Fault Zone between Mill Fork and Little Bear Spring. Offset was approximately 30 feet. Only minor amounts of water were encountered and there was no effect observed at the Little Bear Spring. Little Bear Spring is currently being monitored.

Alternative Water Source Information

In a meeting conducted at DOGM on March 6, 2002, Chuck Semborski described plans Energy West have for conducting mining operations in the IBC and the proposed Mill Fork Lease. He discussed a cooperative agreement Energy West and Genwall Coal Company has initiated with the Emery County Water Users to construct a water treatment plant on Huntington to help mitigate any impacts to the spring. The water users were in attendance at the meeting. Energy West has met the requirement under R645-301-724 and R645-301-525.700 to notifying the Emery County Water Users to allow them to monitor the flow from the Little Bear Spring prior to and during mining of the IBC.

Findings:

The applicant has supplied sufficient Hydrologic Resource Information in the IBC submittal and in the current Deer Creek Mine MRP to meet the minimum requirements of the regulations.

RECOMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this IBC application be approved.