

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF UTAH

Rilda Expansion  
Public Comment 9  
INCOMING  
C/015/018 ENL HSE

REPRESENTATIVE BRAD KING  
MINORITY WHIP

69TH DISTRICT  
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STANDING COMMITTEES: TRANSPORTATION; EDUCATION  
EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE  
OFFICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

May 20, 2004

Lucia Malin  
Environmental Scientist  
**Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining**  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

**RE: *Environmental Assessment for the Construction of New Surface Facilities in Rilda Canyon, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/018, Emery County, Utah***

Dear Ms. Malin:

As a member of the Utah House of Representatives representing the people in District 69 which includes all of or portions of Carbon, Emery, Grand, Wayne and San Juan Counties, I am pleased to take this opportunity and formally comment on the proposed construction of new surface facilities in Rilda Canyon in support of PacifiCorp's existing Deer Creek Coal Mine.

Having been briefed on this project by representatives of Energy West Mining Company, PacifiCorp's operating subsidiary, it is my understanding that these new surface facilities are warranted due to the expansion of the Deer Creek Mine into the Mill Fork state coal lease acquired in 1999. The purpose of these new facilities is to enhance mine safety by shortening the travel time to the working face, provide additional ventilation, escape ways and general mine services. These things are very important for the operator and the work force in providing increased safety and other efficiencies for this operation in sustaining its production and delivery of coal to nearby PacifiCorp Power Plants. Furthermore, this project supports the public interest in sustainable development on federal and state lands while integrating and balancing the basic components of social well being, environmental health and economic prosperity. Coal continues to play a vital role in this region and the State of Utah in meeting the energy demands of today and the future and in

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particular in this region. This project will benefit this region by contributing to sustained employment over the next 15 to 20 years of this mine's life while providing economic benefits for many local businesses and a source of tax revenue for local government and schools.

Having been associated with the Utah coal industry for the past eight years, I fully understand the need to construct additional surface facilities to support mine operations such as this together with the responsibility to adequately address and mitigate the environmental impacts as well. With that I hereby offer my support towards this project and believe a balance can be accomplished to conserve and protect the environment while accommodating the new construction of surface facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully,



Brad King  
Utah House of Representatives  
Minority Whip  
District 69