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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
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UT-0015
UT-0016

April 20, 2006

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APR 24 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: PacifiCorp "Cottonwood/Wilberg, Des-Bee-Dove, and Deer Creek" Mines - Application for a Permit Revision, Phase I, II, and III Lease Relinquishment Information, Task ID No. 2477

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining's (UT-DOGM) April 14, 2006, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Phase I, II, and III Lease Relinquishment Information has determined that it proposes to add a new tab entitled "BLM Approvals" to Supplemental Volume 1 of the approved permit application package for the Cottonwood/Wilberg mine, Utah State permit C/015/019, the Des-Bee-Dove mine, Utah State permit C/015/017, and the Deer Creek mine, Utah State permit C/015/018 to contain lease relinquishment approvals.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Phase I, II, and III Lease Relinquishment Information, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

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OSM also electronically transmitted the April 14, 2006, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

In an electronic submittal dated April 17, 2006, the U.S. Forest service stated in its opinion the permit revision did not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

In an electronic transmittal dated April 19, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management stated in its opinion the permit revision did not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ranvir Singh *ACTING*
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division