

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

April 13, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: Jerriann Ernstsens, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist, Biology Lead

FROM: Jerriann Ernstsens, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist, Biology

RE: Energy West Mining Inc., PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Task ID #2462

SUMMARY:

The Permittee submitted an amendment on October 11, 2005 and subsequent response packet (3/20/2006) to remove a buffer zone for a gas well located within the Mill Fork permit boundary. This amendment also included the changes required to relocate confidential information.

This memo provides evaluations of the review of the Biology and Archeology Information sections.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

PERMIT APPLICATION FORMAT AND CONTENTS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 777.11; R645-301-120.

Analysis:

The Mine and Reclamation Plan (MRP) meets the requirements of R645-301-121.300 for the Biology Chapter or Archeology Section because the Permittee presents information that follows Division format.

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Findings:

Information provided in the plan meets the minimum Permit Application Format and Contents in General Contents requirements of the regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

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:

Vegetation Reference Area Maps

The MRP meets R645-301-323.100 because vegetation maps illustrate community types within disturbed and reference areas, as well as illustrate the location of reference areas. The Permittee removed from the vegetation map (as well as from the elk, moose, and deer maps) the buffer zone for a gas well located in the lower portion of the Mill Fork permit area (section 23). The Permittee negotiated with the managers of the well to remove the protection zone so Deer Creek could maximize coal recovery.

Findings:

Information provided in the plan meets the minimum Environmental - Maps, Plans, and Cross Section Resource Information requirements of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve this amendment.