

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

October 24, 2006

OK

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor 
Jim Smith, Team Lead *JS 10/23/07*

FROM: Wayne H. Western *WHW*

RE: Mill Fork West Extension LBA/Federal Lease, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Task ID #2656

SUMMARY:

On June 1, 2006, the Division received an application for an amendment to the Deer Creek Mine to add Federal Lease UTU-84285, Mill Fork West Extension Tract. The lease addition contains 213.75 acres.

The Permittee sought the additional area because improved technology allowed PacifiCorp to depict the fault location with higher accuracy. The fault's location is shown to be further west than previously thought. The lease addition will allow the Permittee to maximize coal recovery.

On September 26, 2006, the Division received additional information.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

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

PERMIT AREA

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

Analysis:

The Permittee meet the minimum requirements for this section of the regulations.

Findings

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

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:

Permit Area Boundary Maps

The Permittee meet the requirements of this section.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

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

Analysis:

The Permittee added the Mill Fork West Extension Tract LBS/Federal Lease UTU-84285 to the permit area in order to recover coal along the Joes Valley Fault that would be sterilized if not recovered as part of the current Deer Creek Mine operation. The original lease boundaries were based on assumptions about the location of the Joes Valley Fault. Since then, the Permittee has been able to show that the fault was located further to the west than originally thought. The purpose of the lease addition is to allow the Permittee to extent the longwall panels further to the west and thereby recover coal that would have been otherwise lost.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

COAL RECOVERY

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

Analysis:

The Permittee meet the requirements for this section of the TA. The Permittee included a letter from the BLM stating that the R2P2 has been updated and approved to include the addition of the 213.57 acres. The Division uses the R2P2 and other information in the MRP to determine that the Permittee will maximize the maximum economic coal recovery.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is t considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

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

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Analysis:

Renewable Resources Survey

The Permittee met the requirements for conducting a renewable resource survey. The Permittee conducted a renewable resource survey of the area as part of the Mill Fork lease area and determined that there were renewable resources in the area of Federal Lease UTU-84285.

Subsidence Control Plan

The Permittee met the requirements for providing a subsidence control plan.

The plan for the Mill Fork area is in Volume 12 of the MRP. The subsidence control plan requires that no first mining occur within a 22-degree angle of the Joes Valley Fault. The permit boundaries were originally developed on the best information about the location of the Joes Valley Fault. The Permittee was able to gain additional information about the fault when they were underground. The new information indicates that the fault is further to the west than originally thought. The reason for the lease addition is to enable the Permittee to mine coal that would otherwise be lost.

The existing subsidence control plan is adequate to monitor subsidence in the lease addition. The subsidence control plan includes an annual subsidence-monitoring program that used aerial photography. The monitoring program will show what areas have been subsided and by how much.

Performance Standards For Subsidence Control

The Permittee is required to keep all performance standards.

Notification

The Permittee is required to notify all surface owners within 6 months of undermining the area.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

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 Permittee met the requirements for the permit area expansion by showing the affected (permit) area on several maps including MFS1828D (surface ownership) and MFU1837D (coal ownership.)

Certification Requirements

The Permittee committed to having all maps properly certified at the time of final submittal. The Division should check the maps at that time to insure that the Permittee complied with the commitment.

Findings:

The information provided in the proposed amendment is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

RECLAMATION PLAN

BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

Analysis:

Determination of Bond Amount

Since there is no surface disturbance associated with the lease addition, no new reclamation will be needed and therefore, the bond is sufficient.

Findings:

The Permittee met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should approve the amendment on the condition that at final submittal that all maps and cross sections are properly certified.

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