

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

---

JK

March 8, 2007

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Team Lead *WHW*

RE: Phase I Bond Release for Reclaimed Areas, PacifiCorp Deer Creek Mine, Permit C/015/0018, Task ID #2755

## SUMMARY:

PacifiCorp applied for Phase I bond release on approximately 0.60 acres at the Deer Creek Mine 9<sup>th</sup> East Breakout site. The area, in the Right Fork of Grimes Wash, is in the SE/4SW/4, Section 22, T. 17 S., R. 7 E. The Permittee did not request bond at this time.

Three portals were developed in June 1977 for ventilation. All portals and related access were pre-SMCRA. The 9<sup>th</sup> East breakouts were used as ventilation intakes from 1977 until 1990, when they were permanently sealed.

## TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

## RECLAMATION PLAN

### APPROXIMATE ORIGINAL CONTOUR RESTORATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 785.16, 817.102, 817.107, 817.133; R645-301-234, -301-412, -301-413, -301-512, -301-531, -301-533, -301-553, -301-536, -301-542, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-764.

#### Analysis:

The Permittee met the requirements for restoring the site to the approximate original contours. The general requirements for AOC are:

**TECHNICAL MEMO**

---

- Minimize off-site effects. The Division considers that off site impacts have been minimized when the site meets the hydrology requirements and vegetation requirements when needed. See the hydrology section of the TA for specific information.
- Achieve a final configuration, which closely resembles the general surface configuration of the land prior to mining. Since the site was disturbed pre-SMCRA pre-disturbed topographic maps are not available. In addition, some adjacent areas are pre-SMCRA that have been reclaimed to AML standards. The reclamation contours and cross sections on Plate DS1785D show that the site has been reclaimed so that it blends into the surrounding area.
- Provide a subsurface foundation for vegetative cover capable of stabilizing the surface from erosion. The site has been revegetated. While revegetation is not required for Phase I bond release the vegetation cover supports such a claim.
- Support the approved postmining land use. The Division evaluated the reclamation plan and concluded that the reclaimed site would support the approved postmining land use.

The Permittee must also eliminate all spoil piles and highwalls. There are no spoil piles on the permitted site. Some coal piles are located in pre-SMCRA adjacent areas. See Plate DS1785D for details.

The Permittee reclaimed all highwalls within the permitted site. The highwalls (portal face ups) were developed in the coal outcrop. The portals were constructed with minimal disturbance to the overlying strata. The Permittee eliminated the highwalls by placing fill material against the portals.

Some pre-SMCRA portals exist that are outside of the disturbed area. The portals were closed and reclaimed by AML to AML standards.

**Findings:**

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

**BACKFILLING AND GRADING**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.15, 817.102, 817.107; R645-301-234, -301-537, -301-552, -301-553, -302-230, -302-231, -302-232, -302-233.

---

**TECHNICAL MEMO**

---

**Findings:**

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

**ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 701.5, 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-100-200, -301-513, -301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-537, -301-732.

**Analysis:**

**Reclamation**

The Permittee reclaimed all roads within the Phase I bond release area. The reclamation included:

- The Permittee closed the road to traffic and removed all culverts.
- The road was not paved. Therefore, the Permittee did not have to dispose of any road base.
- The road was reclaimed as part of the backfilling and grading process. The Permittee established drainages according to the approved plan.

**Retention**

The Permittee did not retain an roads within the Phase I bond release area.

**Findings:**

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

**MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

---

TECHNICAL MEMO

---

## **BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **Analysis:**

#### **General**

The Permittee did not request any bond release with this application.

### **Findings:**

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Division should deny the bond release application until all of the above deficiencies have been met.