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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

December 20, 2007

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TO: Internal File

THROUGH: Steve Demczak, Lead *SGK by an*

FROM: Joseph C. Helfrich, Environmental Scientist/Biology/Land use/Cultural resources *JCH*

RE: Minor Coal Exploration Plan, Energy West Mining Company, Deer Creek Mine, C/015/0018, Task ID #2886

SUMMARY:

On December 5, 2007 the Division received an application from Energy West Mining Company to drill two coal exploration holes in Crandall Canyon on the Manti La-Sal National Forest in Section 11, Township 16 South, Range 6 East Millfork Coal lease ML-48258 during 2008. The exploration holes will be completed by helicopter drilling.

This memo will address the Biology and Cultural Resource and Land use sections of the regulations.

EXPLORATION TECHNICAL MEMO

EXPLORATION TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-100.

Analysis:

Biology

R645-202-200, Page 9 of the application includes a description of the vegetation in the canyon bottoms, south and north slopes. The application needs to include a map depicting the vegetative communities and a narrative that describes the communities within the proposed drill site locations.

Page 10 of the application references TES surveys for (surface facilities, permit extension and powerline, and the Mill fork leasing process). The applicant needs to demonstrate which survey or surveys include the locations of the proposed drill sites. The application needs to include a current list of Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species for the drill site locations, (Emery County). The listing may be obtained from www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/endspp/CountyLists/UTAH.htm

As noted on pages 10 and 11 the Northern Goshawk is a "management indicator specie" for the Manti-LaSal National Forest. Forest Service Biologists have identified two territories associated with previous exploration drilling activities. They are identified on the 2007 raptor locations, flight path, and staging area map. The proposed flight paths are located such that they should not impact the birds or their territories.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.12; R645-301-411.

Analysis:

Page 8 of the application refers a Class I literature search and a Class III ground survey of the proposed exploration sites. These surveys need to be completed and submitted to the Division and SHPO for concurrence prior to approval.

Findings:

The information is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the following information must be provided in accordance with **R645201-100**; A Class I literature search and a Class III ground survey of the proposed exploration sites need to be completed and submitted to the Division and SHPO for concurrence prior to approval.

RECLAMATION STANDARDS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-200.

Analysis:

Revegetation

All disturbed areas will be promptly vegetated. All areas disturbed will be seeded or planted with the same seasonal variety native to the areas disturbed. The application includes a seed mix to be used in reclamation of the drill sites as outlined on pages 13 and 14 of the application. The seed will be hand broadcast at the completion of each drill hole.

Findings:

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is not recommended for approval at this time.