



File Code: 2820

Date: July 2, 2018

Daron Haddock
Coal Program Manager
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Mr. Haddock,

The Manti-La Sal National Forest (FS) is addressing the potential hazards associated with the Trail Mountain Wildfire, which began on June 6, 2018. The fire burned both Left and Right Forks of Rilda Canyon where PacifiCorp is currently reclaiming the Left Fork Rilda Portals and 1st Right Rilda Portals used during the operation of the Deer Creek Mine, Federal Coal Lease UTU-0006039, Permit # C/015/0018, Emery Country, Utah (T.16.0S, R.7.0E, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32). Based on the severity of the burn, there is a high probability of significant debris flow sourced from burned areas within the Left Fork Rilda drainage basin. Debris flows would impact municipal water supplies just east of the 1st Right Rilda Portals located in the main Rilda Canyon drainage basin as shown on the attached map. The North Emery Water Users Special Service District (NEWUSSD) has shares in Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company and a point-of-diversion to developed springs at this location, which provide culinary water to Northern Emery County, Utah. To mitigate any damage to spring developments, the FS would like to construct a debris catchment basin at the Left Fork Rilda Portal reclamation site.

As the federal land management agency (FLMA), the FS would like to request a post-mining change to the reclamation plan in accordance with 30 CFR 740.4 (c) (2) to include a debris catchment basin for the protection of municipal water supplies at the Left Fork Rilda Portal reclamation site.

The current condition of the Left Fork Rilda Portal reclamation site is as follows: both mine portals were permanently sealed and backfilled with 25 feet of crushed concrete and all buildings, equipment and construction material have been removed. The earthen fill needed to recontour the site remains, along with a guardrail along the access road, Hilfiker retaining walls, a side drainage culvert and the Left Fork culvert. In a concerted effort by the parties (representatives from the FS, DOGM and PacifiCorp) per our on-site meeting on June 29, 2018, the FS can approve final reclamation of the Left Fork Rilda disturbance area to accommodate the construction of a debris catchment basin by the FS, provided that PacifiCorp conduct the following: (1) remove 3 foot Hilfiker substation retaining wall, (2) remove guardrail at the Left Fork Rilda Portal site and along the entire length of access road, and (3) install locking gate across road. Once these three activities are completed, FS will assume all responsibility for the 2.33 acres of the Left Fork Rilda Portal disturbance area, which will include the road required to access the site (see attached map) and topsoil required to reclaim the site.

Furthermore, with the FS taking control over this area for post-fire mitigation purposes and removing these sites from the mine permit, this action absolves PacifiCorp from any further reclamation obligations and performance standards for these areas being removed from the mine permit.



In order to mitigate any imminent impacts to the municipal spring development at this location, the FS would like to stress the need to process this request in an expeditious manner, due to concerns over heavy precipitation during the upcoming monsoon season, which could trigger debris flows. The FS is also aware that any such structure associated with the debris basin built at the Left Fork Portal site, would be the sole responsibility of the FS and not that of PacifiCorp or the State of Utah.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeff Salow at 435-636-3596 or jsalow@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren Olsen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Olsen
Ferron District Ranger

Enclosure

cc: Becky Hammond, FS, Steve Rigby, BLM