



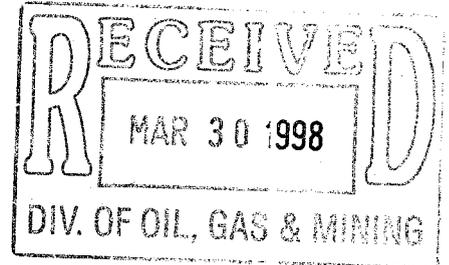
IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

March 24, 1998



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig,  
Permit Supervisor  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

ACT/015/019 #3

Dear Ms. Grubaugh-Littig:

This is a response to your February 23, 1998, letter request for concurrence on the proposed phase III bond release for the PacifiCorp Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine, Channel Canyon portal breakouts.

In the breakout areas, the permittee mined coal under Federal lease U-47978 and disturbed Federal land surface under the management of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM participated in the September 23, 1997, bond release inspection and by letter dated October 1, 1997, concurred with the reclamation at the site. The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) did not attend the bond release inspection but has reviewed the bond release application and accompanying photographs of the reclamation work.

As discussed and shown in the bond release application, the permittee sealed and painted black two ventilation portal breakouts in a coal outcrop that occurs on a vertical cliff face. In its bond release decision document, the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) estimated that only 0.01 acres in this area were disturbed and that all were reclaimed in the portal sealing and painting. Owing to the seals being located on a vertical cliff face, they will not be backfilled, topsoiled, and revegetated. Therefore, the revegetation requirement of the Utah rules at R645-301-357 for a minimum 10-year bond liability period does not apply.

Because of the very small areas involved, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) understands that the Division does not propose to release any bond but rather to terminate jurisdiction under the Utah rules at R645-100-451.200 for the reclamation performed in these areas. Therefore, no reduction will occur in the following bond for the mine:

St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company  
385 Washington Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Surety bond policy No. 400JN6138,  
issued to PacifiCorp (201 South Main, Suite 2000  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84140),  
for the Cottonwood/Wilberg Mine,  
permit No. ACT/015/019,  
in the amount of \$2,071,098.

On the basis of BLM's concurrence and OSM's review of the bond release application and accompanying photographs of the reclamation work, OSM, in accordance with the Federal lands provisions of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 740.15(d)(3) and article IX, section B of the Federal - State Federal lands cooperative agreement, concurs with the proposed termination of jurisdiction.

If you have any questions on this letter, please call Dennis Winterringer, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, at (303) 844-1440.

Sincerely,

*James F. Fulton*

James F. Fulton, Chief  
Denver Field Division

*Peter A. Rutledge*

Peter A. Rutledge,  
Western Regional Coordinating  
Center Bond Approving Officer