



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Price Field Office
125 South 600 West
Price, Utah 84501

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS AND MINING

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Re: Addition of Wild Horse Ridge Leases to Bear Canyon Mine, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025-SR98-1

Dear Mr. Haddock:

Incoming

On December 6, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received from your office a copy of the subject significant revision to the Bear Canyon Mine Reclamation Plan (MRP) for our review.

Surface lands overlaying the Federal coal leases are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS). One exception can be found in Section 31 of T.16S. R.8E. as described below.

Our comments on the significant revision follow:

1. It appears that both the Blind Canyon and Tank Seams will be accessed from portals located on Co-Op fee property. From Plate 2-2, the only surface lands administered by the BLM found within the new proposed permit boundary are found in T.16S. R.8E. S.31, NW1/4NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4 SLBM which contains 80 acres, more or less.
2. The mine plans located on Plates 3-4A (Blind Canyon Seam) and 3-4C (Tank Seam) indicate that all surface lands administered by the BLM are well outside any influences from mining, including subsidence, and, therefore, mining will not result in any surface impacts on BLM-administered surface lands.
3. The BLM is the administering agency for the underground Federal coal leases found within the revised permit area. An amended R2P2 to include the additional Wild Horse Ridge Federal leases has not been submitted to the BLM for review for determination of maximum economic recovery.

Thus, the BLM can recommend continuation of the review process, but cannot support final approval of the significant revision until an R2P2 has been reviewed and determined to be in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and the regulations found at 43 CFR 3480. The R2P2 must also be in compliance with the Federal lease terms and conditions, and must achieve maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal.

We will be working directly with Co-Op to secure and approve a new R2P2 which will include the two additional Federal leases and an additional fee lease (Wild Horse Ridge).

If you have any questions, please contact Jay Marshall at the Price Field Office at (435) 636-3614.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Manus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Richard L. Manus
Field Manager

cc: Joe Wilcox
Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-5733