

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

November 5, 2004

OK

TO: Internal File

THRU: Peter H. Hess, Environmental Scientist III/Engineering, Team Lead *PHH by an*

FROM: James D. Smith, Environmental Scientist III/Hydrology *DS*

RE: Incidental Boundary Change, Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, C/015/025, Task ID #2042

SUMMARY:

The Permittee has submitted an amendment to include all of federal lease U-38727 in the Bear Canyon Mine permit. The lease modification was approved by the BLM in 2003. The addition is 39.44 acres, the NE/4NE/4, section 24, T. 16 S., R. 7 E., and the permitted area expands from 3,336.18 acres to 3,375.62 acres. Estimates of in-place and recoverable coal reserves have been updated to match the latest R2P2.

Information in the amendment meets the requirements of the Geology and Hydrology sections of the R645 Rules and from that aspect approval of the proposed amendment is recommended.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.22; R645-301-623, -301-724.

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Analysis:

Mark Reynolds wrote in an e-mail dated October 27, 2004 that tonnages in Table 3.4-1 on page 3-28 have been updated to match the most recent R2P2. There are some discrepancies in tonnage totals, but Pete Hess is working on this problem with the Permittee.

Blind Canyon Seam

This addition to federal lease U-38727 increases the in-place coal reserves in the Blind Canyon Seam by 548,214 tons (p. 3-28). Recoverable reserves increase by 186,563 tons. Plate 6-3 shows the Blind Canyon Seam has a thickness of 5 ft or less in the IBC. The revised Plate 3-4A shows only a minor modification of the mine layout in the IBC area, with no second mining to be done.

Tank Seam

The Tank Seam is 6 to 8 ft thick in the IBC (Plate 6-11). Plate 3-4C shows that the mine plan has been modified to include mining in the IBC.

	In-place	Recoverable
Previous – Tank Seam	4,555,325 tons	2,227,662 tons
Previous – Blind Canyon Seam	3,558,827 tons	1,592,850 tons
Previous Total – both seams	8,114,152 tons	4,057,075 tons
Amended – Tank Seam	No change	No change
Amended – Blind Canyon Seam	4,107,041 tons	1,779,413
Amended Total - both seams	8,662,366 tons	4,057,075

Tonnages in other federal leases and fee lands have also been adjusted to match values in the latest R2P2.

Findings:

Geologic resource information is sufficient to meet the requirements of the R645 Rules.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 783.24, 783.25; R645-301-323, -301-411, -301-521, -301-622, -301-722, -301-731.

Analysis:

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Resource and Geologic Information Maps

Maps 6-1 through 6-12 have been updated to show the addition of the IBC to the permit area.

Monitoring and Sampling Location Maps

The permit boundary also needs to be updated on Plates 7-4, 7-10A, and 7N-2; however, because the entire permit is being updated and changed to digital format and the location of the IBC is not critical to the information on these maps, the updating of these three maps is not being required for approval of this amendment.

Findings:

Maps and plans of resource information are sufficient to meet the requirements of the R645 Rules.

CUMULATIVE HYDROLOGIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14; R645-301-730.

Analysis:

The IBC is within the current Gentry Mountain CHIA. The CHIA does not need to be updated.

Findings:

The current CHIA is sufficient to meet the requirements of the R645 Rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposed amendment should be approved.