

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

January 12, 2006

TO: Internal File

THRU: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor

THRU: Jim Smith, Lead

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biology

RE: Escarpment failure, Co-op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, C/015/0025, Task ID #2383

SUMMARY:

On November 30, 2005 the Division received an amendment that addresses the potential of escarpment failure on privately owned land at the Bear Canyon mine.

OPERATION PLAN

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.21, 817.97; R645-301-322, -301-333, -301-342, -301-358.

Analysis:

Protection and Enhancement Plan

The Permittee has proposed to protect sensitive surface features from subsidence by first mining only. Barrier pillars will be left where required by lease stipulations or to protect entries, steep escarpments, streams, or wildlife. No retreat mining will be done under these areas (Section 3.4.2.3). The protected areas are identified on Plate 3-3 of the application. Plate 3-4C has been updated to that the longwall panel being mined between 12/2009 and 02/2010 will not extend beyond the subsidence zone.

Bald and Golden Eagles

According to the 2003 DWR raptor survey there are no raptor nests located in the escarpment area. There is one dilapidated unoccupied nest located just north of the permit area.

Findings:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is recommended for approval.