



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
BROOKS TOWERS
1020 15TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

November 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM

To: Director, Office of Surface Mining

From: Administrator, Western Technical Center
Allen D. Klein

Subject: Recommendation for Approval of Genwal Coal Company Inc.'s Crandall Canyon Mining and Reclamation Permit, Emery County, Utah, Federal Lease: SL-062648

I. Recommendation

I recommend approval with stipulations of the Genwal Coal Company Inc.'s Crandall Canyon Mine permit for an underground operation. The proposed Crandall Canyon Mine will be a new operation. My recommendation is based on the Technical Analysis and Environmental Assessment of the complete application. The applicant has proposed to begin underground mining on Federal coal lease SL-062648. The life of the mine will be five years. The permit with conditions included with this memorandum, will be in conformance with the applicable Federal regulations, the Utah State Program, and the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended. I also recommend that you advise the Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals, under 30 CFR 741.12(d) that the Genwal Coal Company Inc.'s Crandall Canyon mining and reclamation plan is ready for approval. I concur with the State of Utah's recommendation that a performance bond in the amount of \$135,374.78 is adequate.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), identified elements of the applicant's proposal which require stipulations to comply with State and Federal law. The State permit #ACT/015/132 with stipulations is incorporated into the proposed Federal permit UT-0067.

My recommendation for approval is based on the complete Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) and permit application, updated to August 3, 1982. I have determined that this action will not have a significant impact on the human environment.

II. Background

The proposed Crandall Canyon Mine is located in Emery County, 13 miles northeast of Huntington, Utah. The permit area contains 80 acres, all of which are Federal Surface managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The coal is owned by the U.S. Government. The applicant has the legal right to enter and begin underground activities in the permit area through Federal lease #SL-062648. The operator also holds Federal lease #SL-050655 in Valentine Gulch and is a totally separate action. The proposal at hand deals only with SL-062648. This mine will not affect any environmentally sensitive areas. The proposed operation will utilize standard underground room and pillar mining methods. The Hiawatha and Blind coal seams will be mined to yield a maximum production rate of 130,000 tons per year. All underground mining operations are scheduled to cease around the year 1987.

The review of Genwal's MRP for the Crandall Canyon mine has identified certain impacts that could be detrimental to the immediate environment if the applicant does not adhere to the MRP as amended and to the stipulations. The mine will be located in a very narrow canyon adjacent to Crandall Creek, a perennial stream. The restrictive surface area of the canyon dictates that certain aspects of the operation will infringe on Crandall Creek. Specifically, the toe of the fill for the haul access road will terminate within the active channel of the stream. The constraints placed on the applicant such as engineering specifications, and construction requirements are developed to minimize impacts to Crandall Creek. With proper utilization of these techniques and requirements, the impacts of the operation to Crandall Creek can be minimized.

A public hearing was held on June 1, 1981 in Huntington, Utah, to determine if there were any adverse comments on the proposed action of construction of an access bridge across Huntington Creek to the site from Highway 31. There were no substantive objections received. The mine plan application was determined complete on March 11, 1982 by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Public notification was given by publication in the newspaper on March 31, 1982. No Public Comments were received.

Forest Service management requirement No. 22 requires that a road right-of-way (ROW) across the fee property, held by Anaconda Minerals Company (Beaver Creek Coal) in the NW1/2SW1/4 Section 5, T16S, R7E, be obtained. Final negotiation of this right-of-way is currently in progress between Forest Service, Genwal Coal Company and Anaconda Minerals Company. In the interim, until the ROW deed is completed, Anaconda Minerals Company has requested that the Forest Service administer the fee land identified in the attached plat as part of the approved operations during the construction process.

In its letter of concurrence dated October 18, 1982, the Forest Service states that "The 23 management requirements outlined in the Environmental assessment prepared and approved by the Forest Service dated January 29, 1982, must be followed." In conversation subsequent to receipt of the concurrence letter, the Forest Service advised that the statement is intended to emphasize the importance they place on the applicant complying with those requirements and acknowledge that the applicant has responded to their concerns expressed in January through revisions to the MRP or UDOGM and OSM have responded to their concerns with stipulations. The revisions to the MRP accompanied by the permit conditions and special stipulations have adequately addressed all 23 of the Forest Service management requirements.

The Crandall Canyon Mine permit application was reviewed by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining using the approved Utah State Program, the Federal Lands Program (30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter D). The Mineral Leasing Act portion of the plan was also reviewed for compliance with the applicable portion of 30 CFR Part 211 (i.e., requirements and responsibilities of the Minerals Management Service). The Technical Analysis for this mine application was prepared by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and the Environmental Assessment was prepared by OSM. These documents, other documents prepared by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, the company's application, and other correspondence developed during the completeness and technical reviews are part of OSM's MRP and permit application file. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and OSM jointly developed proposed stipulations to assure compliance with State and Federal regulations.

A chronology of events related to this MRP application is enclosed. After the Genwal Coal Company Inc. published the newspaper notice as required, no written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference were received. Written concurrence was provided by Minerals Management Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Letters were received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Historic Preservation Officer. Stipulations were incorporated from comments of the Minerals Management Service.

The information in the permit application and MRP, as well as other information documented in the recommendation package and made available to the applicant, has been reviewed by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining staff in coordination with the OSM Project Leader.



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Reclamation and Enforcement

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals
From: *J. J. Harris*
Director, Office of Surface Mining
Subject: Recommendation for Approval of the Crandall Canyon Mining and Reclamation Plan, Genwal Coal Company Inc., Emery County, Utah, Federal Lease, SL-062648

I am prepared to approve a permit for the Crandall Canyon Mine pursuant to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended. My decision to approve the Genwal Coal Company Inc.'s permit is based on: (1) the applicant's complete permit application, (2) our permit conditions, (3) public participation, (4) review of the application by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the State as required by the approved Utah State Program, and (5) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The OSM permit incorporates the State's permit.

The Secretary may approve a mining plan for Federal lands under 30 U.S.C. 207(c) and 1273(c). The proposed operation is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

I find that the proposed operations will be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and I recommend the Crandall Canyon Mine mining and reclamation plan dated August 3, 1982 be approved.

I approve this mining and reclamation plan:

Samuel H. Miller
Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals

11/22/82
Date