



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement
Brooks Towers
1020 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

IN REPLY REFER TO:

APR 26 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director

THROUGH: Deputy Director

FROM: Assistant Director, Western Support Center

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Approval of the Genwal Coal Company's Crandall Canyon Mine Mining Plan for Federal Lease UTU-68082, Emery County, Utah

I. Recommendation

I recommend approval of the Crandall Canyon Mine mining plan for Federal lease UTU-68082. This mining plan supplements the Crandall Canyon mining plan for Federal leases SL-062648 and U-54762 approved on November 22, 1982 (and modified on February 11, 1987 and July 19, 1989). My recommendation is based on: (1) Genwal Coal Company's (Genwal) complete permit application package (PAP), (2) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (3) documentation assuring compliance with applicable requirements of other Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders, (4) comments and recommendations or concurrence of other Federal agencies, and the public, (5) the findings and recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management with respect to the resource recovery and protection plan and other requirements of the Federal lease and the Mineral Leasing Act, and (6) the findings and recommendations of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining with respect to the PAP and the Utah State program.

Approval of this mining plan will authorize mining of approximately 1.5 million tons of Federal coal within the approved mining plan area covering 152 acres within Federal lease UTU-68082, as shown on the maps included with this decision document. The review of the PAP indicated that Genwal's proposal would not require special conditions to be included in the mining plan approval document to comply with Federal law.

Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGGM) reviewed the PAP under the Utah State program, the Federal lands program (30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter D), and the Utah cooperative agreement (30 CFR § 944.30). Pursuant to the Utah State

program and the cooperative agreement, Utah DOGM completed on March 31, 1994, findings for approval of the permit amendment and is prepared to issue the revised permit upon approval of the mining plan.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has consulted with other Federal agencies for compliance with the requirements of applicable Federal laws, and their comments and concurrences are included in the decision document. The resource recovery and protection plan was reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and 43 CFR Part 3480, and BLM recommended approval of the mining plan in a memorandum dated March 28, 1994. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided its final consultation comments under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in a memorandum dated March 23, 1994. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), in a letter dated April 26, 1994, determined that the proposed permit amendment would not change the level of protection of cultural resources. The Manti-La Sal National Forest, conditionally concurred with the proposed permit amendment and mining plan action in a letter dated March 18, 1994. The Forest Service conditions will be included in the revised permit to be issued by Utah DOGM upon approval of the mining plan.

I have determined that the proposed area of mining plan approval is not unsuitable for mining in accordance with section 522(b) of SMCRA.

The permit amendment area is located on Federal lands within the boundaries of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. However, based on OSM's analysis and on the concurrence of the USDA Forest Service, the surface operations and impacts of the Crandall Canyon Mine are incident to an underground coal mine and will not be incompatible with significant recreational, timber, economic, or other values of the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

OSM has determined that approval of this mining plan will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The impacts of approval of this mining plan and alternatives are described in the environmental assessment attached to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) included with the decision document.

The mining plan approval document included in the decision document is in conformance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and applicable Federal regulations. I recommend that you advise the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, under 30 CFR Part 746, that Genwal's Crandall Canyon Mine mining plan for Federal lease UTU-68082 is ready for approval.

II. Background

The Crandall Canyon underground coal mine is located in Emery County, Utah, 15 miles west of Huntington. The mine has been in operation since 1983. About 7 acres have been affected by surface disturbance to date. Including the 152-acre permit amendment area, the total permitted area of the Crandall Canyon Mine will contain about 2318 acres. Mining is expected to continue for five years under Utah Permit No. ACT/015/032 and the approved mining plan.

The original mining plan for the Crandall Canyon Mine was approved under the Federal lands program on November 22, 1982, for Federal lease SL-062648. Since that approval there have been two other mining plan actions for the Crandall Canyon Mine: a mining plan modification for Federal lease SL-062648 approved on February 11, 1987; and a mining plan for adding Federal lease U-54762 approved on July 19, 1989. With this mining plan action, the approved mining plan area for the Crandall Canyon Mine will contain a total of 564 acres, including the previously approved mining plan area for Federal leases SL-062648 and U-54762.

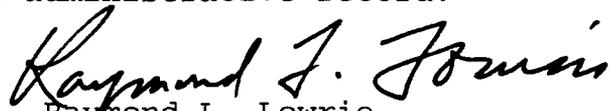
The underground mining operations utilize room and pillar mining methods. The Hiawatha coal seam is mined at an average production rate of about 1.5 million tons per year. No additional surface disturbance will result from this action.

A chronology of events related to the processing of the PAP is included with the decision document. The information in the PAP, as well as other information identified in the decision document, has been reviewed by Utah DOGM staff in coordination with the OSM Project Leader.

During the review of the PAP, no major issues were identified.

Utah DOGM determined that a bond in the amount of \$703,000 is adequate for the Utah Permit No. ACT/015/032 associated with this mining plan action. The bond is payable to the State and the United States.

The PAP submitted by Genwal and updated through March 17, 1994, Utah DOGM's Findings and Supporting Documentation provided to OSM under the cooperative agreement, the environmental assessment and FONSI of the proposed action and alternatives prepared by OSM, other documents prepared by Utah DOGM, and correspondence developed during the review of the PAP are part of OSM's administrative record.


Raymond L. Lowrie

Attachments



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 9 1994

94-05-18-06

MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

From: Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement *[Signature]*

Subject: Recommendation for Approval of the Genwal Coal Company's
Crandall Canyon Mine Mining Plan for Federal Lease UTU-68082,
Emery County, Utah

I recommend approval of the Genwal Coal Company's Crandall Canyon Mine mining plan for Federal lease UTU-68082 pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. This mining plan supplements the Crandall Canyon mining plan for Federal leases SL-062648 and U-54762 approved on November 22, 1982 and modified on February 11, 1987 and July 19, 1989. My recommendation to approve the Crandall Canyon Mine mining plan is based on: (1) Genwal Coal Company's complete permit application package (PAP), (2) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (3) documentation assuring compliance with applicable requirements of other Federal laws, regulations, and executive orders, (4) comments and recommendations or concurrence of other Federal agencies, and the public, (5) the findings and recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management with respect to the resource recovery and protection plan and other requirements of the Federal lease and the Mineral Leasing Act, and (6) the findings and recommendations of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining with respect to the PAP and the Utah State program.

The Secretary may approve a mining plan for Federal leases under 30 U.S.C. §§ 207(c) and 1273(c). Pursuant to 30 CFR Chapter VII, Subchapter D, I find that the proposed mining plan will be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The decision document for the proposed mining plan action is attached.

Attachment