



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

August 7, 1998

TO: File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor 

FROM: David Darby, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Summary Report, Division Order, Crandall Canyon Mine, ACT/015/032, Genwal Resources, INC., Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

On June 15, 1998 Lowell Braxton, Acting Director of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining finalized the Findings of the Informal Conference Held on May 8, 1998. Concerns were presented about the status and adequacy of the Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) document the operator must present in the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP).

A Division Order, Stipulation No. 2, required the Operator to submit an updated and adequate PHC. It also ordered these findings depicting the status and adequacy of the Cumulative Hydrologic Consequences (CHIA) for Crandall Canyon Mine area.

The Division received a letter from Castle Valley Special Services District (CVSSD) on April 10, 1998 which claimed that the PHC and CHIA were inconsistent, inaccurate and failed to assess the hydrologic impacts associated with the Crandall Canyon Mine.

At approximately the same time that the Division received notice from the CVSSD the Division had been in contact with Gary Gray, Genwal Resources Inc. (Genwal) and Jean Semborski, Andalex Resources discussing changes that will take place in the MRP as a result of groundwater studies conducted by Dr. Allen Mayo. Dr. Mayo has been assessing the area on and adjacent to the minesite to establish a groundwater model for LBA 11 and the current minesite.

A review of the PHC was conducted and found that it was lacking in describing the status of mine water discharges and mining methods, the mine sequence and layout was illustrated in the MRP.

In a telephone conversation with Jean on April 16, 1998 after the receiving the CVSSD letter, Jean was asked to submit an updated PHC as soon as possible to account for any impacts from mine water discharges and longwall mining. An updated PHC was submitted by Genwal on May 14, 1998.

ANALYSIS

The status of the current CHIA is at issue, since the PHC has been updated. The last revision of the CHIA was prepared by Jim Smith dated July 15, 1994. Prior to that, Ken Wyatt wrote a CHIA for East Mountain, which included the Crandall Canyon Mine. It was less specific to the activities of the Crandall Canyon Mine.

The updated PHC concludes no adverse impacts from discharging mine water or using longwall mining techniques. The mine plan discusses the occurrence of groundwater in the mine and its anticipated origin.

A review of the two existing CHIA's for East Mountain and the Crandall Canyon Mine area reveals that their assessments of the current activities are insufficient to portray the potential impacts of mining activities from the Crandall Canyon Mine. Neither CHIA provides information of potential impacts from longwall mining or water quality or quantity impacts. There are also no updated maps to portray potential impact sites.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present CHIA's are deficient for assessing current activities. I recommend that the Division proceed in preparing an updated CHIA for the Crandall Canyon Mine area with the information available. It is recognized that new information from current studies by Dr. Allen Mayo may be forthcoming, however the assessment process should not be delayed. New information should be incorporated into the CHIA as it is received.

cc: Lowell Braxton, Acting Director
Mary Ann Wright, Director Mining
Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

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