

0017

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

October 2, 2007

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *pgl*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Environmental Scientist *WHW*

RE: Well Sealing, Genwal Resources Inc., Crandall Canyon Mine, C/015/0032

SUMMARY:

The Division reviewed the sealing plans for the wells drilled in connection with the rescue attempts at the Crandall Canyon Mine. The Division determined that the sealing plan is adequate.

A key difference in the sealing plan from the usual sealing plans is that a plug will be placed above the coal. The plug is needed to prevent cement from going into the workings. The Permittee plans to plug the entire holes with cement if conditions allow. Because of ground movement, the Permittee may not be able to access the entire length of the hole.

TECHNICAL MEMO

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

MINE OPENINGS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.13, 817.14, 817.15; R645-301-513, -301-529, -301-551, -301-631, -301-748, -301-765, -301-748.

Analysis:

On September 28, 2007, the Bureau of Land Management submitted a reclamation plan for the sealing of rescue wells at the Crandall Canyon Mine. Hole numbered 3 and 4 were collared on the Mani-LaSal Forest and intercepted federal coal. The other holes were drilled on State Institutional Trust Lands surface and coal.

The Permittee will seal the holes with cement. The Permittee plans to place a seal at the bottom of the holes to prevent cement from entering the mine. The Permittee then plans on sealing the holes from the bottom to the top with cement.

Due to earthen movement, the Permittee may not be able to reach the bottom of the holes. In such cases, the Permittee will place a plug at the lowest point of access and then fill the hole with cement.

The sealing plan is consistent with R645-301-551, which calls for underground openings to be sealed when no longer needed.

Findings:

The information provided in the submittal is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The plugging should be approved.