

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program



January 30, 2008

TO: Internal File

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor *DDH*
Priscilla Burton, Lead, Soils, Landuse *PWB by an*

FROM: Joe Helfrich, Biology *JH*

RE: Addendum to the Reclamation Plan, Genwal Resources Inc., Crandall Canyon Mine, C/015/0032, Task ID #2893

SUMMARY:

On December 21, 2007 the Division received an application from Genwal Resources Inc. that addresses the reclamation of the emergency drill pads constructed in an effort to rescue six trapped miners in the Crandall Canyon mine. Appendix 5-22A is the addendum to the reclamation plan that has been submitted for review. This memo will address the Biology section of the application.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

PROTECTION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

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

Analysis:

The application needs to include information about exclusionary periods for wildlife species. The proposed reclamation area is known habitat for Mule Deer, Elk and Goshawks. The applicant should provide information about these species that addresses periods in their life cycles that may need to be avoided during reclamation activities.

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Findings:

The information provided is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations, prior to approval the following information must be provided in accordance with **R645-301-333, -301-342, -301-358**, The application needs to include information about exclusionary periods for wildlife species. The proposed reclamation area is known habitat for Mule Deer, Elk and Goshawks. The applicant should provide information about these species that addresses periods in their life cycles that may need to be avoided during reclamation activities.

REVEGETATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.18, 817.111, 817.113, 817.114, 817.116; R645-301-244, -301-353, -301-354, -301-355, -301-356, -302-280, -302-281, -302-282, -302-283, -302-284.

Analysis:

The addendum includes an update of the reclamation efforts completed as of December 10, 2007. Pads 3,4 and 5 and their access roads have been reclaimed. Pad 7 and the rerouted segment of the SITLA road have also been reclaimed and reseeded using the final seed mix as noted in the MRP. Wood straw matting was also applied to the reclaimed areas. To date 3.99 of the 7.91 disturbed acres have been reclaimed leaving a balance of 3.92 acres to be completed during the reclamation season of 2008. This effort will include the reclamation of pads 2 and 6 and their access roads, the "oops" road, the remainder of the access road from the ledge to the top of the mountain, the SITLA road, and the Forest Service road. A detailed description of the reclamation measures to be implemented is provided for on pages 8 through 11 of the addendum. Reclamation efforts will commence in late June or early July of 2008 and be completed in approximately 9 weeks.

Timing and site conditions precluded the opportunity to establish reference areas for the disturbance. The applicant has committed to establish reference areas for the pads and associated roads during the summer of 2008. The applicant has also committed to control noxious weeds as needed.

Findings:

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

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Reclamation Treatments Maps

Attachment #4 is an aerial photo depicting the reclaimed areas and proposed future reclamation for 2008.

Findings:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The application is not recommended for approval at this time.