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Technical Analysis and Findings
Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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PID: C0410002
TaskID: 5460
Mine Name: SUFCO MINE
Title: ADD MONITORING DATA & REVISE COMMITMENTS

Summary

This task is an update to address deficiencies in previous amendment tasks 5282 and 5241.
The following is a review of the subject amendment with analysis to determine if regulations R645-301-300 Biology have been met.

Deficiencies Details:

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Operation Plan

Vegetation

Analysis:

The amendment meets the State of Utah R645 requirements for protection of vegetation from mining-induced subsidence.
The Permittee agreed to a monitoring and mitigation plan for undermining the South Fork of Quitcupah 2R2S Block "A" and 3R2S Block "B". This plan is incorporated into the MRP as Appendix 3-14.
Page 1 of Appendix 3-14 states, "The monitoring and mitigation plan will provide sufficient data for stakeholders associated with these resources and lands to make a determination of the degree of impacts. Information and data will be collected before the area is mined, throughout the mining period, and after mining is passed. Monitoring and data collection will continue until the mine, Division and Forest agree that mining impacts, if any, have occurred, have been mitigated, and no further impacts are anticipated."
Mining ceased in both panels over 2.5 years ago and subsidence has stopped. Panel 2R2S Block "A" beneath the South Fork Creek Channel was mined from August 2013 thru February 2014 and 3R2S Block "B" was mined beneath the South Fork Creek Channel from August 2014 to December 2014.
By comparison of the riparian monitoring/sampling sites with the annual subsidence map it is apparent that sites Q01C, Q02S, Q03C, Q04S, Q05S, Q06S, Q07C, and Q08C are outside of the area of influence from subsidence. The annual subsidence surveys from 2012 - 2015 indicate no subsidence cracks have been located in the area of survey sites 1 thru 8.

However, site Q09C has surveyed subsidence cracks approximately 370 feet downstream and 180 feet to the north of the site as shown on the annual subsidence map. Mt. Nebo Scientific Reports included in Appendix 3-14 indicate no impact due to subsidence has been noted at this site or sites 1 thru 8 (refer Section 3.30).

In an email provided from USFS Rob Hamilton on 8/18/2016, the Fishlake National Forest provides concurrence that "monitoring above the road is no longer needed".

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