



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Jared Ebert

FROM: Clayton Wein

DATE: 10/27/2021

SUBJECT: New Elk Mine PR-5 Review of Subsidence Monitoring Plan for the Blue Seam

Hi Jared,

As requested, I have reviewed the New Elk Mine's PR-5 adequacy responses with regard to the sections addressing the Subsidence Monitoring Plan for the Blue Seam and protection of the hydrologic balance of the Purgatoire River. After review of the submitted materials I have the following comments:

Rule 2.05.6(6)(b) –

1. The adequacy response to address this section is insufficient. The operator's response of "... mining in the Blue Seam will include room and pillar mining with no secondary recovery. As a result no subsidence will occur." The operator further stated that sections of Exhibits 8, 24, and 42 have been updated accordingly. The operator did not provide the division with any new text for Exhibits 8, 24, or 42. Information in these sections should explain why there is going to be no anticipated subsidence using the room and pillar mining method, not just that subsidence isn't anticipated using this mining method. This information will be important because the Blue Seam has the least amount of overburden of any of the seams mined at this site. Information should be included if the operator plans to mine coal in areas that have already had the coal mined from the Allen and/or the Apache Seams. If there are plans to mine coal in areas above seams that have already been mined, the operator should consider if subsidence has previously occurred in those areas.
2. This following comment is also applicable to Rule 2.05(6)(3). The information provided in the adequacy responses does not include any new information regarding the development mining underneath the Purgatoire River. The existing information in the C-012 permit only covers the previously mined coal seams and does not account for the Blue Seam. The Blue Seam is roughly 250-300 above the Apache Seam. New information regarding undermining the Purgatoire River in the Blue Seam needs to be addressed and included. This should include depth of the Blue Seam from the Purgatoire River in the areas planned to be over the mining areas. As well as, if/what type of measures taken to prevent impacts to the hydrologic balance.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Clayton