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BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov>

Mine subsidence plan

5 messages

BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov> Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 9:57 AM
To: Monte Buchanan <monte.buchanan@wyo.gov>, Brian Goodnough <brian.goodnough@wyo.gov>
Cc: Mark Rogaczewski <mark.rogaczewski@wyo.gov>

Monte and Brian,

We are currently working with a mining company that is planning to open an underground mine in Sheridan County. Their consultants in West Virginia are putting the permit application together and need some help in crafting the subsidence plan. Since we have no underground mines currently active in District III we have no examples of subsidence plans in active permits. Since you are both working with the Carbon Basin and Hanna mines, I assume that you may have some information about handling subsidence issues in an active permit and how that narrative is crafted. Would either of you be able to send me an example of a subsidence plan that is already in place? I would appreciate it greatly.

We're keeping our fingers crossed that the proposed mine north of Sheridan is a viable proposition and want to help them build a permit that is as comprehensive as possible. At this point, they plan on developing a series of boxcuts in areas of low overburden and then mining outward from the highwall. So subsidence will be actively occurring immediately adjacent to a surface operation and an effective subsidence plan is a high priority. I hope you folks have some information that will get me started on the right foot while the permitting is in its early stages. Thanks in advance.

bj

—
Bj Kristiansen, P.G.
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JAN 8 2014

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is you never know if they are genuine." - Abraham Lincoln

Monte Buchanan <monte.buchanan@wyo.gov> Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:00 AM
To: BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov>
Cc: Brian Goodnough <brian.goodnough@wyo.gov>, Mark Rogaczewski <mark.rogaczewski@wyo.gov>, Robin Jones <robin.jones@wyo.gov>

Hi BJ,

I can get you some info. **What kind of underground mining technique is the proposed operation (e.g., "longwall")??** Basically, underground mining expects subsidence (i.e., "Planned Subsidence"). Then if the the longwall panels subside perpendicular to the surface drainage system, the some type of mitigation would occur to ensure flow-through drainage (regrading, "cut and fill," etc.). Of course, if subsidence impacts housing, buildings, RR's, roads, then more extreme measures would be warranted.

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Brian may know some info, but may be limited because it is associated with mines that have been reclaimed many years ago. The mines are typically "room-and-pillar" and some of the disturbance occurred prior to WEQA.

I'll try to scan some of the permit language in the Carbon Basin mine (PT730) and give you some of some notes/info related to the underground mining class I took last year (excellent OSM course by-the-way). Thanks!

Monte Buchanan
Natural Resource Analyst - Geologist
WDEQ/Land Quality Division, District One (D1)
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building 3W
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-7065

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E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

Brian Goodnough <brian.goodnough@wyo.gov> Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:16 AM
To: Monte Buchanan <monte.buchanan@wyo.gov>
Cc: BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov>, Mark Rogaczewski <mark.rogaczewski@wyo.gov>, Robin Jones <robin.jones@wyo.gov>

BJ:

I have two mines that are reclaimed, but there may be some information in the mine/reclamation plans that may be useful. I could scan sections of the mine/reclamation plans and send you the information. I should be able to scan information by Monday or Tuesday next week. Will that work with your schedule?

Thanks,

Brian

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BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov>
To: Monte Buchanan <monte.buchanan@wyo.gov>

Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:17 AM

Monte,

I think they are still working on the details as far as mining technique is concerned. I believe that they will do something similar to the early days of Bridger when they began their underground operation from the highwall of the pit. Some kind of continuous miner/auger system is being considered but I suspect that much of the detail on equipment will evolve as the mine plan evolves. I believe that general language is good enough to get them thinking about their plans so anything we can provide for guidance will be helpful.

bj

On Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:00 AM, Monte Buchanan <monte.buchanan@wyo.gov> wrote:

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BJ Kristiansen <bj.kristiansen@wyo.gov>
To: Brian Goodnough <brian.goodnough@wyo.gov>

Fri, Jan 3, 2014 at 11:20 AM

Brian,

That works fine. I have time to get more familiar with this stuff since the permitting process is just beginning for the mine. I want to be able to get ahead of the game...if that's possible. Thank you for your help, it is appreciated greatly.

bj

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