



BLM Coal Program Responsibilities Crandall Canyon Mine Incident

Utah Mine Safety Commission
December 11, 2007

Presentation Objectives

- Provide overview of regulatory agency roles in coal leasing and development
- Summarize history of the Crandall Canyon Mine
- Explain BLM's inspection role and actions prior to and after the Crandall Canyon Mine Incident on August 6, 2007

Initial Development of the Crandall Canyon Mine

- Original mine was a small operation in 1950's
- In 1980's Genwal started modern room and pillar mine with continuous miners and acquired an additional small lease near the portal

Mine Expansion

- Genwal acquired by Nevada Electric and IPA
- BLM issued right-of-way to access SITLA coal
- Mine implemented continuous haulage system
- New lease issued to encompass remaining federal coal

Final Extent of Mine

- Andalex acquires Nevada Electric interest in the mine
- Longwall operations started on federal lease and progressed to SITLA lease
- Company failed to acquire Mill Fork tract to the south; consequently no further longwall acreage available
- Started recovery of coal in barriers and pillars in mains

Crandall Canyon Inspection and Mine Plan Approval

- Original R2P2 approved by Assistant Secretary
- BLM State Office processed numerous modifications to R2P2 over the past 20 years
 - Different Mining Methods
 - Changes in Geologic Conditions
- Mine inspected regularly to ensure plan conformance and verify production
- Additional inspections to verify conditions for R2P2 modifications

Chronology of BLM Inspections and Actions Before the Crandall Canyon Mine Collapse

- 2/23/05 – R2P2 approved to place seals at crosscut 118 in West Mains with determination that MER was achieved; no recovery of pillars or barriers attempted
- 12/04 to 10/06 – Mine successfully pulling pillars in the South Mains (SITLA lease)

- 12/14/2006 – Regular quarterly inspection
 - Noted that Genwal was driving entries in the North Barrier Pillar for the West Mains
- 2/27/2007 – Regular quarterly inspection
 - Noted that Genwal was pulling pillars in the North Barrier Pillar for the West Mains
 - Observed no operational problems at that time, but inspector noted operations were moving toward deeper cover

- 3/15/07 – Special inspection
 - Company requested approval to stop mining in the North Barrier
 - Inspector noted that mine bounces (bumps) had occurred
 - Rib coal was thrown in entry ways two breaks from the face
 - Stoppings had been damaged in the bleeder entry from crosscut 132 to crosscut 149
 - Apparently related to overburden increasing to almost 2000 ft

- 6/13/07 – Regular quarterly inspection
 - Company developing four entries in the West Mains South Barrier
 - Inspector noted that only northernmost entry in the south barrier was on federal coal lease
 - Other three entries were on SITLA coal lease
 - No adverse conditions identified

(The 6/13/07 inspection was the last BLM inspection before the mine collapse on August 6, 2007)

Chronology of BLM Actions Following the August 6, 2007 Mine Collapse

- BLM became aware of the incident through the media
- 8/6/07 – BLM inspectors contacted the command center and offered assistance
- 8/13/07 – BLM provided MSHA with geologic information from mine
- 8/13/2007 – BLM approved drilling of surface holes to locate trapped miners

- 8/17/07 – BLM contacted company representatives and expressed need for BLM to be involved in ongoing operations
- 8/30/07 – BLM met with company and MSHA to discuss issue of company's need for approval regarding future actions on the federal coal lease
- 9/14/07 – Due to lack of submission of revised R2P2 and/or abandonment plan by the company, BLM issued a notice and order to company regarding unapproved mine closure activities

- 9/20/07 – BLM approved plan to allow temporary cessation of operations at the mine
- 9/28/07 – BLM approved plan to plug drill holes
- 10/5/07 – Approved plan to install block walls in the portals and secure mine entrance
- 10/26/07 – Notified company of their failure to properly plug the drill holes on federal lands
- Working with company and US Forest Service to determine if current plugs are sufficient

We are committed to full cooperation
and coordination regarding these very
important matters

Thank you

