



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILLIAM S. MOORHEAD FEDERAL BUILDING
1000 LIBERTY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-4186

ET-17325
KB

FD 35131

REPLY TO

April 8, 2009

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch
2007-765

Wolfpen Knob Development Company
C/o Jonathan Pachter
1800 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-2541

Dear Mr. Pachter:

I am writing in response to a pre-application meeting held on January 6, 2009, concerning the proposed Mason-Dixon Complex located in Monongalia County, West Virginia. The following were in attendance, Mr. Mark Stanley, Consolidated Coal Company (CONSOL), Mr. Rob Coit, CONSOL, Mr. Jonathan Pachter, CONSOL; Mr. Allen Edris, Corps of Engineers, and Scott Hans, Corps of Engineers.

The proposed Mason-Dixon Mine Complex would encompass approximately 3,200 acres, of which, approximately 2,400 acres, or 75 % of the area, would be disturbed over a period of 30 +/- years. Infrastructure to support the longwall mining operation within the Pittsburgh #8 coal seam is likely to include a Preparation Plant/Rail Load-out Facility, Slope/Portal Yard Area, Refuse and Fresh Water Facilities. Aquatic resource impacts are anticipated within the Camp Run, Briar Run, Miller Run, Joy Run, and Browns Run watersheds. All five of these watersheds drain to West Virginia Fork of Dunkard Creek, a named tributary to the Monongahela River.

Based on these discussions disturbance to waters of the United States within these watersheds for the multi-phased project has the potential to affect approximately 120,000 LF of stream channel and approximately 10-acres of palustrine emergent wetlands.

After evaluating the project's potential net effects on the aquatic environment when viewed in conjunction with past impacts to those resources and similar impacts of other present and reasonably foreseeable future impacts within the Upper Monongahela River (HUC 5020003) watershed; Mr. Edris has determined you should prepare for a scoping meeting at this time in preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mason Dixon Mine Complex. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to assist the Corps in defining issues, public concerns, alternatives, and the depth to which they will be evaluated in the EIS.

If you have any questions, please contact Allen Edris at 412-395-7158 or by e-mail at allen.r.edris@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Scott A. Hans
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

CF: USEPA (Jeff Lapp)
USEPA (Mark Douglas)
USFWS (Laura Hill)
WVDEP (Dennis Phipps)
WVDEP (Dennis Stottlemeyer)
STB (Victoria Rutson) ✓