

7/007/001

**envirosphere company**

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0020

28 July 1982



Ms. Sarah Bransom  
Office of Surface Mining  
Brooks Towers, 2nd floor  
1020 - 15th Street  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Sarah:

Re: Revised Apparent Completeness Review of the MRP for the  
Belina Mine Complex, Valley Camp Coal Company,  
Carbon County, Utah

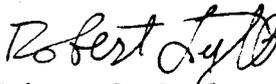
We have completed our revised Apparent Completeness Review for the Mining and Reclamation Plan for the Belina Mine Complex, Valley Camp Coal Company in Carbon County, Utah. This ACR is formatted in the style we discussed last Wednesday and Friday. The ACR was accomplished using the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) ACR letter of October 20, 1981, and Valley Camp's responses to this letter of May 18, 1982. Our revised ACR states whether a response is complete; if so, the rationale for judging apparent completeness is stated and if not, additional information is requested from the applicant. In some cases we were unable to evaluate completeness because we do not yet have the referenced documents. These are the documents listed in our letter of July 16, 1982. I understand that you now have these references available and will provide them to us. We will then review the subject sections for completeness.

The ACR associated with cultural resources and socioeconomics is to be completed by OSM. Thus, EnviroSphere has not reviewed the completeness of the responses to DOGM question on UMC 783.12 dealing with cultural resources or the responses provided in a separate section on socioeconomics.

Our apparent completeness review has been based primarily on the ACR by the Utah DOGM of October 20, 1981 and is thus keyed primarily to the Utah permanent program regulations. The deficiencies noted in the attached report need to be corrected to provide a complete MRP. Based on our review of the OSM's permanent program requirements in Subchapter D, Federal Register, March 13, 1979 and subsequent revisions, we believe that the correction of the above noted deficiencies will also make the MRP complete for OSM purposes. It is also noted that OSM concurred with Utah DOGM's ACR on September 9, 1981.

I hope this revised ACR will meet your needs. If you have any questions, please call.

Yours truly,

  
Robert S. Lytle

RSL/slr

APPARENT COMPLETENESS REVIEW  
BELINA COMPLEX  
VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC.

UMC 782.13 - Identification of Interests

In response to comments on UMC 782.13, the applicant has submitted all names, titles and addresses of surface property and coal owners affected and contiguous to the permit area (see pp. 1-1C) and has thus completed this section of the MRP.

UMC 782.14 - Compliance Information

The applicant has provided some of the information required in this section, in particular the date of issuance; a brief description of the violation; the date, location and type of any proceeding, and the current status of violations. In order to complete the information for UMC 782.14 the applicant's response to UMC 782.14(c)(1) and (5) must include the identity of the division issuing a violation notice and the applicant's action taken to abate the violation.

UMC 782.18 - Personal Injury & Property Damage Information

Section UMC 782.18 is apparently complete. The applicant has provided a copy of the insurance certificate (p. 3A) which shows that it is, in fact, in force for the underground coal mining activities. The policy also shows a rider requiring the insurer to notify the DOGM whenever substantial changes are made in the policy.

UMC 782.19 - Identification of Other Licenses & Interest

The response to UMC 782.19 completes this section of the MRP. As requested on page 4, the applicant has provided a revised permit listing which includes license numbers and/or current status and other relevant information, and a description of water rights (see pp. 4A-I).

Pursuant to USGS comments, the applicant has supplied a description of the Roof Control and Ventilation System, and Methane and Dust Control Plans in Appendix B. This description appears to be complete.

Appendix A includes the Golder Associates report which describes the underground waste structure design and construction and appears to be complete. The applicant states that "No MSHA approval is required." (p. 4).

Finally, on page 4I, the applicant lists the lease agreement with the Alpine School System for the supply of culinary water, and thus completes this section of the MRP.

#### UMC 782.21 - Newspaper Advertisement & Proof of Publication

In response to comments on UMC 782.21 (p. 5), the applicant has corrected all errors in the description contained in the advertisement (see p. 5A) and plans to readvertise as required (p. 5). Therefore, this section is apparently complete.

#### UMC 783.12 - General Environmental Resources Information

The apparent completeness review of cultural resources and socioeconomic information is to be completed by the OSM. EnviroSphere has determined that the response to paragraph 1 (p. 6) of the comments by the DOGM is apparently complete. The applicant has provided the size, sequence and timing of subareas of the mine plan area, in 5-year increments, of the subareas for the life of each mine (Appendix C; Maps E1-0005 & E2-0006) pursuant to UMC 783.12(a). The applicant has also provided the mine layout (Maps E1-0005 & E2-0006) and forecast of production in 5-year increments for the life of the mine (p. 6C), as required by the USGS.

EnviroSphere has not reviewed the completeness of the remainder of this response which deals with cultural resources. As previously mentioned, the portion of section UMC 783.12 which has been reviewed by EnviroSphere is apparently complete.

#### UMC 783.14 - Geology Description

The applicant has not, as yet, completed this section. The applicant's response to DOGM comments was that Gates Engineering Company was retained to supply the geologic information needed. This information was to be submitted after July 1, 1982 and is required for the determination of apparent completeness.

UMC 783.15 - Ground Water Information

The applicant has not adequately responded to the request for additional information on well completion in paragraph 1. Drillers logs for the Whiskey Canyon well and the Alpine well were provided in Appendix E; however, logs for the Upper Eccles and Lower Eccles wells are not presented. On page 8A the applicant indicates the above mentioned wells were the only wells sampled and that no periodic depth-to-water levels are available for the wells. This part of section 783.15 is incomplete as a result of the lack of information on the Upper Eccles and Eccles wells.

In response to paragraph 2, the applicant has partially responded to the request for information on how the water table surfaces were developed by referring to Plate 6, Groundwater Contours, of the Vaughn Hansen report. The applicant should, however, indicate the location of the cross-section with respect to the Vaughn Hansen report.

The applicant has adequately responded to the question of relative flow rates of springs as related to the extent of recharge (p. 8); however, no connection between water quality and the extent of recharge is made.

The applicant's response to the request for information in paragraph 3 on the computation of groundwater discharge to Eccles Creek is to refer to the discussion in the Vaughn Hansen report, pages 61-65, which adequately details the procedure used in the calculation.

The applicant has adequately delineated the location of the Alpine well, and has referred to a discussion in the Vaughn Hansen report, pages 55-61, in regard to their conclusions on the groundwater system. This part of UMC 783.15 is complete.

The applicant has adequately responded to the request for information on the effects of mining on the groundwater system and has provided a discussion of information relating to existing mine discharges on pages 3b and 8c to satisfactorily complete this part of UMC 783.15.

In response to questions in paragraph 7, the applicant has clarified the status of the monitoring program by referring to the discussion in the Vaughn Hansen report, pages 49-52 and 89-91, and has provided updated information requested. This part of UMC 783.15 is complete.

#### UMC 783.16 - Surface Water Information

The applicant has previously submitted the information necessary for completion of this section as indicated by the copy of a transmittal letter to the DOGM, dated September 11, 1981, found on pages 13A and 13B. This information includes the Vaughn Hansen Associates report and the Golder Associates report; these reports adequately describe the hydrology of the mine plan area. A hydrology map of the Belina mine is presented in Figure 3-2 of Appendix A, as requested in the comments on page 13, thus completing this section of the MRP.

#### UMC 783.18 - Climatological Information

The apparent completeness of the applicant's response to comments on UMC 783.18 cannot be fully determined until EnviroSphere has reviewed the Coastal States Permit Application.

However, portions of this section are apparently complete based on information provided on pages 14-14C. The applicant does confirm the rainfall value of 29.8 inches is, in fact, precipitation including snowfall; the USGS reference date has been corrected; and the State of Utah Department of Health correspondence regarding dust control has been attached (pp. 14A-C).

Review of completeness of information on monthly climatological records cannot be made until the Coastal States Permit Application has been reviewed.

#### UMC 783.19 - Vegetation Information

The applicant's response to UMC 783.19 is not entirely complete. Page 15A, paragraph 1, does not provide actual acreages of vegetation communities; and page 15, paragraph 8, and Map G do not delineate specific vegetation types that will actually be disturbed. The acreages of vegetation communities to be disturbed must also be calculated and provided in numerical form.

The information provided in the report by Endangered Plant Studies, Inc. (pp. 15B-M) includes analyses of vegetation types in the affected area and reference areas, descriptions of sampling methodologies and adequacy, and clarification of minor discrepancies; thereby completing the information requested of the applicant regarding these topics.

UMC 783.22 - Land Use Information

The applicant's response to UMC 783.22 is considered to be complete. The applicant plans to return disturbed areas to pre-law land use; with the Belina portal upgraded to recreational use, or to the landowners' desire as a cattle holding facility. These uses are expected to preclude wildlife use (see p. 17).

UMC 783.27 - Prime Farmland Investigation

The response to UMC 783.27 is considered to be complete based on the statements provided by the applicant and the Soil Conservation Service, shown on pages 18 and 18A, stating that the permit area does not fulfill the requirements for determination as a prime farmland.

UMC 784.11 - Operation Plan: General Requirements

The response to comments on UMC 784.11 is not entirely complete. The applicant has identified the size of the trucks in use as 25 ton bottom dump trailers pulled in tandem, or 30 ton trailers pulled individually. Due to the moisture content of the product, coal dust emissions have not been a problem, and spillage control is obtained by maintaining loads which will not spill over the trailer top (p. 19).

The applicant states that a specific conveyor design has not been completed; and thus the applicant cannot, at this time, provide details of drainage modifications or plans, if any, for the allowance of wildlife passage under the conveyor (p. 19), as requested by the DOGM. The applicant should develop a plan for wildlife passage and commit to it or specify a schedule for providing this information prior to construction of the conveyor. A schedule should also be specified for providing information on drainage modifications. These plans will have to be approved prior to construction.

UMC 784.12 - Existing Structures

The applicant has provided the mine layout and forecast in Appendix C and on page 6 to demonstrate apparent completeness with regard to paragraph 1 of the DOGM comments.

The applicant states that the information needed to respond to paragraph 2 was previously submitted in the Vaughn Hansen Associates compliance survey of October 1978 and in a stipulation response for Belina #2 on November 30, 1981. The stipulation response has been requested from the Utah DOGM.

Completeness

of this section cannot be determined until this response is reviewed.

The applicant has submitted certification letters from Mr. Phillips, P.E. and Mr. Foust, P.E., and has thus adequately responded to paragraph 3 of the comments from the DOGM.

UMC 784.13 - Reclamation Plan: General Requirements

The response to UMC 784.13(a)(2) does not completely address the questions brought forth by the DOGM. The applicant does not adequately address the request for additional information and recalculations of the data in Appendix A (see pp. 21-21A). The applicant should provide the maps of the portal and load-out areas which he states would be prepared as soon as snow cover melts. Calculations of yardages and acreages involved should be provided, as well as delineating the areas on the maps. This information is required to judge the apparent completeness in regard to UMC 784.12 (Reclamation Plan: General Requirements). Assumptions that are included in the calculations and sources of unit costs should be specifically stated. As requested on page 21, paragraph 3, and pursuant to the USGS (211 Plan) and UMC 784.13(b)(6), a narrative must be provided detailing the specifics of recovery and conservation of the resource. The applicant refers to Section 783.14 in answer to questions in DOGM's paragraph 3 regarding conservation of the coal resource. This information should be provided either in the forthcoming Gates Engineering report or as a separate response. The present information is adequate.

There is no statement of intent to notify the USGS prior to abandonment of operation or portals.

The applicant has provided estimations of removal costs (p. 21A) as requested on page 21, paragraph 2.

The MRP cannot be considered complete until all information requested in UMC 784.13 has been adequately addressed.

#### UMC 784.13 - Soils

The applicant's response to comments on UMC 784.13 (Soils) is not complete. The applicant has submitted revised soil analysis data to include the soil map units "r", "t" and "u" (pp. 22B-D) pursuant to UMC 817.21, therefore the response to paragraph 1 is complete.

The applicant states that no topsoil has been removed or stored at the Utah #2 and Belina sites since these areas were pre-law (p. 22A). Thus no further discussion is provided for these areas.

The applicant also states that with the exception of the conveyor belt route, no additional disturbance is planned (22A). The applicant must provide information on soils and proposed soil handling procedures for this conveyor belt route. It is not adequately addressed in the response to UMC 783.19.

The applicant's response (p. 22A) to comments on the slope stability comments is complete.

#### UMC 784.13 - Revegetation

On page 23A the applicant states that disturbed areas will be mapped and responses to comments on regulation UMC 784.13(b)(5) will be submitted as soon as practicable after snowmelt. Apparent completeness cannot be reviewed prior to receipt of these documents.

#### UMC 784.13 - Backfilling & Grading

The applicant has supplied the Golder report (Appendix A) and a postmining contour map for the Belina area (Appendix F). A postmining contour map for the Utah #2 load-out site is being constructed as indicated in the comments on page 24. Section 784.13 (Backfilling and Grading) cannot be considered complete until the Utah #2 map is submitted and reviewed.

#### UMC 784.14 - Reclamation Plan: Protection of Hydrologic Balance

The applicant states that Utah #2 mine does not have gravity drainage in response to DOGM's question in paragraph 1.

The applicant has responded to the comment in paragraph 2 completely. The total embankment height is 20 feet. However, the storage height as measured from the upstream toe of the embankment to the crest of the spillway (see 30CFR 817.46q) is only 18 feet, therefore not meeting the requirements of 30CFR 77.216(a)(1) or (2).

The applicant has modified the inlet structure with riprap to stabilize the fill as shown on revised Map D-1 and Appendix F. This response adequately addresses the comments in paragraph 3.

The applicant has provided data from groundwater quality samples in Appendix E in response to DOGM request and to support their contention of beneficial impacts.

The applicant stated that he provided the necessary information in their submittals to DOGM on mine discharge filtering system on July 24, 1981, November 17, 1981, and May 17, 1982. This information, which has been requested from the DOGM, will be required to assess completeness.

The applicant has provided adequate information on the monitoring of the mine discharge (p. 25A).

The applicant has completely responded to the comment in paragraph 6 by clarifying the nature of the downward flow through the bentonitic shale (p. 25B).

#### UMC 784.15 - Reclamation Plan: Postmining Land Uses

On page.26A, in combination with pages 16A-F and 17, the applicant provides explanations for the questions regarding UMC 784.15 on page 26, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4. These paragraphs concern wildlife postmining land use, reclamation plans, and portal land use changes, respectively.

However, the response to page 26, paragraph 3, is incomplete as the applicant does not supply reasoning and support for land use changes; and the applicant has not provided a plan for maintenance of the drainage system. This information must be provided to assure completeness of this section of the MRP.

#### UMC 784.16 - Reclamation Plan: Ponds, Impoundments, Banks, Dams & Embankments

In response to DOGM's questions in paragraph 1 on UMC 784.16, Valley Camp seems to indicate that the emergency spillway of the #4 dam will serve as the lower end of an overflow diversion ditch in the post-mining period. This ditch appears to be a permanent structure. Please state whether this is the case. If so, also provide design data for this ditch for the post-mining period and provide details of its proposed operation, including a drawing of the inlet configuration, in relation to the culvert.

The applicant has supplied the "Compliance Survey" by Vaughn Hansen Associates to DOGM, containing calculations and design considerations for Ponds 1, 2 and 3. A copy of this report is needed to complete this ACR. Similar information requested for Pond #4 is contained in the Golder report (Appendix A) and is apparently complete.

The applicant has acknowledged that design data for Pond #4 was in error and refers to the Golder report for clarification of this point.

The applicant has responded to the comment concerning the mine drainage pond by referring to the reports submitted to DOGM on July 24, 1981, November 17, 1981 and May 17, 1982 concerning proposed revisions of the mine discharge filtering pond. A completeness review cannot be completed without a review of these documents, which have been requested from Utah DOGM.

#### UMC 784.19 - Underground Development Wastes

UMC 784.19 is not complete. The engineering drawings provided in the Golder Associates report (Appendix A) are not certified by a professional engineer as requested by DOGM. The remainder of the Golder report adequately addresses the comments in paragraph 1.

The applicant has provided a brief discussion on the potential toxicity of fill material on page 28, paragraphs 2 and 3. However no substantiation for these comments is provided. This must be provided before this section can be judged complete.

#### UMC 784.20 - Subsidence Control Plan

The applicant's responses to comments in UMC 784.20 are incomplete. The applicant has not provided a letter from surface managing authorities and owners to verify the claim of the non-existence of any renewable resource lands, as required by the DOGM, pursuant to UMC 784.20. If these are renewable resource lands, the applicant should provide letters from the surface managing agency and the surface owners to verify that subsidence would not cause material damage or diminution of value or reasonably foreseeable use of lands. This was previously requested by DOGM. The applicant must also provide a description of the measures to be taken to mitigate material damage or diminution of value or reasonable foreseeable use of lands, if it should occur, due to subsidence pursuant to UMC 784.20(C) and UMC 817.124.

Page 29A indicates the applicant's plans for the angle-of-draw (35°) and intent to modify those plans when necessary; Appendix C, Maps E1-0005 and E2-0006 indicate the applicant's mining plan consideration of subsidence protection for surface structures; and the basis for the self-sealing characteristics may be found on page 7 of the Vaughn Hansen report. These responses are judged to be complete.

The applicant has not responded to the request by DOGM (p. 29, paragraph 6) to provide a detailed description of mitigation measures of damage to pipelines or powerlines. The applicant does state that damage to springs is discussed in the Vaughn Hansen report. The applicant has also not provided a letter from the structure or surface owner stating that such a plan is sufficient to protect this interest.

The applicant has provided a monitoring plan agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in Appendix H, indicating the applicant's program for determining the extent of subsidence and its effect upon mine design (p. 29A). This satisfies the request made in paragraph 7.

#### UMC 784.21 - Fish and Wildlife Plan

The applicant does not completely respond to the questions regarding UMC 784.21 (p. 30), or UMC 817.97 (p. 16), as the applicant has not provided a definitive statement of commitment to the DWR wildlife protection plan; there also is no statement of commitment to a thorough plan of appropriate mitigation measures. The applicant does not provide a reference to support the statement on page 87 regarding goshawks and Cooper's hawks, as requested on page 30, paragraph 2.

The applicant does provide a complete response to page 30, paragraph 3, regarding riparian habitat protection (see UMC 817.97, p. 16A).

The applicant must provide the aforementioned statements of commitment and support statements in order to complete section 784.21 of the MRP. Pursuant to UMC 784.21(b)(1), the applicant must state the potential existence within the mine plan area of any state or federal threatened, endangered or sensitive (TES) species. This statement should be accompanied by descriptions of critical habitats, monitoring and management techniques, and impact control measures.

#### UMC 784.22 - Diversions

The applicant's response to UMC 784.22 is not complete. The applicant states that the 42" culvert was sized by Golder as being capable of passing 52 cfs. Page 20 of the Golder report indicates that the capacity calculations for the culvert and the 100-year flood flow calculations were conducted by others. The applicant should determine who performed the hydrologic design for the culvert and present the calculations. The applicant states in response to DOGM's ACR on UMC 784.22 that the 42" culvert on the Whiskey Canyon drainage will not be removed and will be a permanent structure. The applicant should provide information on the proposed maintenance of this culvert in the postmining period, means of preventing it from becoming a public safety hazard (i.e. a 42" CMP is large enough to be entered by children) and the inlet configuration and its relationship to the overflow diversion channel. Longitudinal (not cross-sectional as currently provided) profiles of the culvert and diversion channel should also be provided. These profiles should show any drop structures or other velocity control structures.

#### UMC 784.24 - Transportation Facilities

The applicant has provided all necessary information including specifications for width, grade and surface of the road (p. 32). Drainage and culvert sizing and spacing information was previously submitted in the Vaughn Hansen compliance survey. This report has been requested from DOGM and must be reviewed prior to an evaluation of completeness.

The applicant has also provided a general description of the proposed conveyor system (Map C, Volume IV and Maps M-1 through M-7, Volume IV).

#### UMC 784.26 - Air Pollution Control Plan

The applicant's response to comments on UMC 784.26 is apparently complete. Page 33 states that no fugitive dust control measures are employed on coal stockpile. Discussion of plans for dust control and air quality in correspondence with the State of Utah Department of Health (8/17/80) may be found in the section on UMC 783.18 (Climatological Information), pages 14-14C. The applicant has also provided copies of correspondence regarding air quality monitoring waivers (pp. 33A-C); and the applicant states that the Utah State Department of Transportation will determine the paving schedule of Eccles Canyon (p. 33).

UMC 785.19 - Underground Coal Mining Activities on Areas or Adjacent to Areas Including Alluvial Valley Floors in the Arid or Semi-Arid Areas of Utah

The applicant has adequately responded (pp. 34-34A) to the DOGM comments concerning the Alluvial Valley Floor in Pleasant Valley Creek, and therefore, this section of the MRP is apparently complete.

UMC 817.46 - Hydrologic Balance: Sedimentation Ponds

The applicant's response to comments on UMC 817.46 is apparently complete. On page 10, the applicant states intent to submit any plans for proposed future construction for technical review and will evaluate settled sediment material to determine toxicity to formulate reclamation procedures.

UMC 817.47 - Hydrologic Balance: Discharge Structures

The applicant has not specifically stated whether the emergency spillway for Pond #4 is permanent, and has not discussed long-term stability and postmining maintenance in terms of the dam embankment. The applicant should clarify the status of the emergency spillway in order to complete UMC 817.47.

UMC 817.48 - Hydrologic Balance: Acid Forming & Toxic Forming Materials

The applicant has not provided the information necessary to adequately respond to DOGM comments on UMC 817.48. On page 12 the applicant has provided the location of the landfill, and states the lease agreement with the property owners provides for this use. Since the lease (p. 21, Vol. I) does not specifically include this use, the applicant should provide a written statement from the landowner approving such use.

UMC 817.52 - Hydrologic Balance: Surface & Ground Water Monitoring

The applicant has adequately defined the composite sampling method to be used (p. 9). Water quality at most points has been defined and presented in the Vaughn Hansen Associates report. At those points currently removed from the present mining activity, monitoring will commence one year before the area is impacted by mining activity to delineate baseline conditions (p.9). This response is judged to be complete.

The applicant has adequately described maximum and minimum flow characteristics. The applicant has not indicated whether any excessive mine discharges, effluent violations, or emergency flow situations have occurred, and if so, whether they have been reported as required. This information should be provided.

UMC 817.97 - Protection of Fish, Wildlife & Related Environmental Values

The response to UMC 817.97 is incomplete in several respects. The applicant has not provided a map delineating key wildlife areas; the applicant has also not made a specific statement of commitment to the DWR wildlife protection plan (see p. 16, paragraph 6; also, section 784.21 of the original MRP). On page 16A, paragraphs 5 and 6 respond to comments on passerine surveys and references to support the statement on page 86 regarding eagles; however, there is no response to the request for support for the statement regarding goshawks' and Copper's hawks' ability to withstand considerable human impact (p. 87, Vol. III).

The remaining information requested of the applicant, regarding riparian habitat disturbance and autumn raptor surveys, is provided on pages 16A and 16D-E. Page 16A explains that the riparian habitat involves too small an area to clearly define on a vegetation map; also, the applicant claims "...the mining activities...do not disturb the riparian habitats and...addresses a program to avoid such disturbance...". Pages 16D-E provide the applicant's raptor survey plans and schedules.

The applicant must provide all of the information requested by the DOGM in order for the MRP to be considered complete.