

VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC.

Scofield Route

Helper, Utah 84526

6 December 1982

Mr. Thomas N. Tetting
 Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
 4241 State Office Building
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

DEC 08 1982
 DIVISION OF
 OIL GAS & MINING

RE: Approval to Mine Belina No. 2

Dear Mr. Tetting:

On March 5, 1982, the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining requested from the Office of Surface Mining, that approval to mine the Lower O'Connor Seam, through the Belina No. 2 Mine, be issued to Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. The OSM responded in correspondence to the Division on March 25, 1982, and gave approval for such mining up "until December 31, 1982, or upon final decision of the permit application," whichever came first. As part of the approval, we were limited to advance into the federal coal to that which would be accomplished within a one year period, and then only in the South and West Main entries.

At present, considering the fact that our mine permit application is yet in review, and a "final" decision cannot be made, which would allow continued mining in the Belina No. 2 Mine, we are facing the possibility of ceasing operations at this mine. Considering the instability of the coal industry, which is affecting most operations within this region, and, which has already necessitated a reduction in force of 111 men from this operation, closure of the No. 2 mine would certainly be of great economic importance to this Company and the surrounding area.

In order to continue mining operations in this mine into 1983, an extension of approval is hereby requested.

The following information is offered for your use in reviewing this request:

1. The approval process originally designed to provide a final decision by January 1, 1983, has been interrupted by both administrative and operational delays.
2. Portions of the Response to Apparent Completeness Review have not yet been addressed. The particular items were noted in Valley Camp correspondence to you as of November 9, 1982, and are herewith presented again with update explanations.
 - A. Section UMC 783.14 - Geology Description -
The consultants have now finished this portion and their report, or portions thereof, will be submitted as soon as our review of the material is complete. Our response for this section should be submitted by December 20, 1982.
 - B. Section 784.13 - Reclamation Plan - General Requirements -
Due to unexpected weather conditions, the Forest Service flight has been postponed and disallowed our enlisting another group to perform a partial flight of the area, which would allow for the generation of maps required for this part of the section, as well as those following in C and D. A copy of the Forest Service letter is enclosed.
 - C. Section 784.13 - Revegetation -
This portion is yet to be addressed due to the previous statement concerning the Forest Service flight (See B above).
 - D. Section 784.13 - Backfilling and Grading -
This portion is also yet to be addressed due to the previous statement concerning the Forest Service flight (See B above).

As it stands now, three (3) parts of one Section (783.14) comprise that portion of the ACR response which is not yet addressed. These parts could, no doubt, be handled this next summer, as soon as snow cover permits.

Hopefully, approval of our mine plan permit application could be issued, pending submittal of this information, and even possibly, other information which may be required pursuant to completion of our ACR response.

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In the event approval is given based upon certain stipulations, we offer our full cooperation in completing the Response to Apparent Completeness Review by addressing the remaining issues as quickly as possible.

Also enclosed, please find two (2) copies of the Belina No. 2 Mine Progress Map which indicates where we presently are, as compared to the map submitted by the MMS depicting the one year projection as previously mentioned. In addition, I am enclosing two (2) copies of the revised Belina No. 2 Projection Map showing anticipated advance to the previously approved boundary limits.

If you have questions concerning this request, please call upon me.

Sincerely,



T. G. Whiteside
Chief Engineer

Enclosures

Copies to: W. L. Wright, w/o encl.