



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
BROOKS TOWERS  
1020 15TH STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OCT 7 1983

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ACT/007/001  
#2

Mr. Richard Harris  
Executive Vice President  
Valley Camp Coal Company  
P. O. Box 900  
Oil City, PA 16301

Dear Mr. Harris:

In accordance with our December 22, 1982 and August 9, 1983 letters to Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM) (transmitted to Valley Camp on December 29, 1982 and August 18, 1983 respectively), the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) hereby confirms the termination of Valley Camp of Utah's authorization to mine Federal coal in the lower "O'Connor" seam (Federal coal lease U-020305, Belina #2 mine). This action is based upon the following:

1. Valley Camp failed to provide, by September 16, 1983, a complete response to the technical deficiencies identified in the August 9, 1983 Determination of Adequacy document, as acknowledged by the applicant in its September 16, 1983 letter to UDOGM. Specifically, a complete response was not provided for: UMC 783.15, Ground Water Information; UMC 817.101(b)(4)(iii), Backfilling and Grading; UMC 784.13(b)(4), Reclamation Plan: General Requirements (Topsoil); and UMC 784.24, Transportation Requirements (Belina Haul Road and Proposed Conveyor);
2. In addition to those areas not addressed, the applicant's September 16, 1983 response to the Determination of Adequacy document was found to be deficient in several areas for the purpose of making a finding of compliance. A letter identifying these deficiencies will be forwarded to Valley Camp under separate cover.

At the present time, OSM is proceeding with the Technical Analysis of the permit application based upon the information submitted to date. To the extent that it does not cause delays in our review, OSM will accept responses from the applicant on the remaining technical deficiencies. However, as stated in our June 13, 1983 letter to you, OSM will issue a decision on the permit application in December 1983. Additional materials will not be allowed to cause a delay in the permit decision schedule.

5. August 25, 1982 ACR required drill logs under section 783.15. Valley Camp was informed, by OSM's 3/25/82 letter, that a decision would be made on the application by 12/31/82.

6. October 20, 1981 "original" state/OSM ACR. Under UMC 783.14, logs were required to be submitted. The ACR acknowledges the applicant's statement that "as more information becomes available, cross sections will be updated." To date, additional information has not been received.

II. UMC 817.101 (b) (4) (iii) Backfilling and Grading:  
General Requirements

Required: Results of geotechnical mapping and drilling program for determining slope stability.

Background: Valley Camp proposes to leave the haulroad and several cut and fill terraces adjacent to the Belina portals as a function of postmining land use. A geotechnical analysis is required to demonstrate stability. (Also covered under UMC 784.24 Transportation Facilities.)

Dates of Request and Deadlines:

1. August 24, 1983 final DOA with September 16, 1983 given as a deadline.

2. August 9, 1983 preliminary DOA with September 16, 1983 given as a deadline.

3. May 23, 1983 preliminary DOC identified USFWS concern over proposal to leave haulroad as a postmining structure (UMC 783.22). Applicant is told that this issue would require further information for the TA. Valley Camp is notified by OSM's 12/22/82 letter that a decision would be made on the plan by 9/16/83.

4. February 7, 1983 ACR states (UMC 783.22) that, for the purposes of completeness, all information on proposed postmining land use is adequate.

5. August 25, 1982 ACR did not require any information under 817.101 and stated that, for the purpose of completeness, all information submitted regarding postmining land use was adequate.

6. October 20, 1981 "original" ACR required a slope stability analysis of features, including roads and fills, be submitted as required under UMC 784.12. No deadline given.

III. UMC 784.13(b)(4) Reclamation Plan: General Requirements  
Topsoil

Required: Analysis of site material proposed for topsoil substitute.

Background: Valley Camp originally proposed to import topsoil from outside the permit area for the purpose of reclamation. In a September 2, 1983 meeting with the applicant, OSM offered alternatives (on-site source of topsoil) to this proposal given the applicant's inability to identify the off-site source.

Dates of Request and Deadlines:

1. August 24, 1983 DOA with 9/16/83 given as a deadline.
2. August 9, 1983 draft DOA with 9/16/83 given as a deadline.
3. May 23, 1983 preliminary DOC requested that the source of topsoil be identified and, if unavailable, all information under UMC 817.22(e) Topsoil Substitute and Suppliments, must be provided. The applicant responded on June 17, 1983 by stating that "at this point in time, we have no idea whatsoever where this material will come from. We cannot predict such happenings thirty years from now." No other information under this section was submitted.
4. February 7, 1983 ACR requested an identification of source of topsoil or substitutes as an item needed to initiate the TA. OSM required this information be submitted by 3/18/83 in our 12/22/82 letter to the applicant.
5. August 25, 1982 ACR requested the same information as stated above. Valley Camp was informed, by OSM's 3/25/82 letter, that a decision could be made on the application by 12/31/82.
6. October 20, 1981 ACR acknowledges the confusion over the applicant's plans to remove and stockpile topsoil. No date given for response.

IV. UMC 784.15(b) Reclamation Plan: Postmining Land Use

Required: Documentation of support from DOGM, UDWR and USFWS on the applicant's proposed postmining land use plan.

Background: Much confusion has centered on the applicant's postmining land use and reclamation plans. Proposals have ranged from a cattle holding facility to a recreation site and habitat for wildlife. A letter from the landowner has been requested, but not received as of this date.

Dates of Request and Deadlines:

1. August 24, 1983 DOA with September 16, 1983 given as a deadline.
2. August 9, 1983 draft DOA with September 16, 1983 given as a deadline.
3. May 23, 1983 preliminary DOC identified the FWS concerns regarding the lack of a definable postmining land use plan and stated that clarification would be required at the TA stage. (Also covered under 783.22) Valley Camp was informed, through OSM's 12/22/82 letter, that a decision would be made on the application by 9/16/83.
4. February 7, 1983 ACR stated that, for the purpose of determining completeness, all information was submitted under this section.
5. August 25, 1982 ACR states that, for the purpose of completeness, all information regarding postmining land use has been submitted.
6. October 20, 1981 ACR provides a detailed discussion of what information must be submitted under UMC 784.15. It acknowledges the applicant's conflicting statements regarding postmining land use plans.
7. UMC 784.24 transportation facilities (Belina haulroad)  
Required: AS-built design of the existing Belina haulroad.

Background: Valley Camp has submitted cross-sections and a map of the existing haulroad; however, this was found to be inadequate for the purpose of assessing stability and conformance with hydrology regulations.

Date of Request and Deadlines:

1. August 24, 1983 DOA with September 16, 1983 as a deadline.
2. August 9, 1983 draft DOA with September 16, 1983 as a deadline.

3. May 23, 1983 preliminary LXX did not address this section.

4. February 7, 1983 ACR states that, for the purpose of determining completeness, the information submitted under this section is adequate.

5. August 25, 1982 ACR states that, for the purpose of determining completeness, the information submitted under this section is adequate.

6. October 20, 1981 ACR requires that all information under this section be submitted by the applicant. No deadline given.

If, at any time, you require clarification or technical assistance in order to respond to the remaining deficiencies, OSM should be contacted immediately. If you have any questions regarding this decision, please feel free to contact me at (303) 837-5421.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Klein  
Administrator  
Western Technical Center

cc: Mr. Jim Shirazi, UDOGM  
Mr. Robert Hagen, AFO  
Mr. Trevor Whiteside, Valley Camp, Utah  
Jackson Moffitt, BLM, Salt Lake City



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OCT 07 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Manger  
Utah Task Force

FROM: Sarah Bransom *SB*  
Project Leader

SUBJECT: Updated Chronology of the Mine Plan Review  
Valley Camp, Belina Mine Complex, Utah

1. Mine plan for Belina #1 submitted in 1975.
2. 10/8/76: State issued permit
3. 2/10/77: USGS issues 211 permit for Belina #1 mine covering the existing Belina #1 (Upper O'Connor Seam).
4. 2/9/81: Valley Camp submits a permit application to OSM and UDOGM for the existing Belina #1 and proposed Belina #2 portal areas.
5. 4/24/81: OSM submits to DOGM a draft list of ACR comments on the application.
6. 4/30/81: OSM submits to DOGM a finalized list of ACR comments on the application.
7. 6/12/81: OSM grants Valley Camp a "minor modification" to construct the Belina #2 portal, fans, conveyor belt and to enter county coal in the lower O'Connor Seam. Approval contained stipulation that the company could not enter federal coal in Belina #2 without permission from OSM/MMS.
8. 8/20/81: DOGM forwards consolidated ACR comments to OSM.
9. 9/1/81: OSM concurs with DOGM consolidated ACR comments.
10. 10/20/81: DOGM forwards a "final" ACR document to Valley Camp.
11. 12/2/81: Valley Camp requests permission to enter federal coal in Lower O'Connor (Belina #2) seam.

12. 12/11/81: DOGM invokes "administrative delay" in the review of the Belina permit application.
13. 12/18/81: MMS approves Valley Camp's request to enter Federal coal on the Lower O'Connor seam.
14. 12/24/81: DOGM transmits letter to OSM stating intent to approve Valley Camp's mining of federal coal as a "minor modification" to the existing Belina #1 interim mine plan.
15. 1/20-1/28/82: OSM initiates a series of discussions with MMS requesting that they define a "limit" to mining in the Lower O'Connor seam.
16. 2/2/82: MMS approves Valley Camp's request to enter federal coal in Lower O'Connor seam until 7/1/83 and delineates mining area on a map.
17. 2/23/82: Valley Camp submits letter to DOGM stating their intent to respond to the ACR by 5/31/82.
18. 3/25/82: OSM approves Valley Camp's request to enter coal until 12/31/82, or upon a decision on the mine plan application, whichever comes first. OSM establishes a May 31, 1982 deadline for submittal of a response to the 10/81 ACR.
19. 6/23/82: OSM receives Valley Camp's response to 10/81 ACR.
20. 7/6/82: OSM awards contract for review of the application to Envirosphere for \$8,828 (lowest bidder).
21. 7/16/82: Envirosphere submits to OSM an ACR of the application, including Valley Camp's 6/23/82 submittal.
22. 7/28/82: Due to severe inadequacies with Envirosphere's review identified by OSM, Envirosphere re-submits its review of the mine plan.
23. 8/18/82: DOGM and OSM conduct a "spot-check" of Envirosphere's ACR comments and revises ACR.
24. 8/21/82: DOGM forwards a draft second-round ACR to Valley Camp.
25. 8/24/82: OSM, DOGM, Valley Camp and Envirosphere meet in Salt Lake City to review the second-round ACR.
26. 8/25/83: A revised second-round ACR is formally transmitted to Valley Camp.
27. 11/9/82: Valley Camp responds to the 8/25/82 second-round ACR.
28. 11/26/82: Valley Camp requests second "minor modification" to continue mining federal coal in Lower O'Connor Seam beyond the 12/31/82 deadline.

29. 12/10/82: EnviroSphere completes review of 11/9/82 submittal and finds geology, vegetation, operation plan, revegetation, diversions and fish/wildlife plans to be incomplete.
30. 12/21/82: DOGM and the applicant meet to discuss the alternatives and timeframes for submitting a response to the remaining deficiencies. Applicant is to provide response by 12/31/82.
31. 12/22/82: OSM approves applicant's request to continue mining federal coal beyond 12/31/82 deadline. Authority to mine federal coal in the Lower O'Connor seam is to expire 9/16/83. All of the remaining responses to the deficiencies are to be submitted by 3/18/83.
32. 1/15/83: Valley Camp submits the "Gates Engineering Report" in response to geology/engineering deficiencies.
33. 1/30/83: EnviroSphere completes review of 1/15 submittal. (Formal letter sent to OSM on 2/25).
34. 2/2/83: OSM/DOGM/Valley Camp meet to discuss remaining deficiencies.
35. 2/7/83: DOGM forwards the third-round deficiency letter to Valley Camp.
36. 2/23/83: OSM transmits a letter to DOGM on the importance of Valley Camp's submittal of materials by 3/18/83.
37. 3/4/83: DOGM transmits letter to OSM expressing discontent with quality of EnviroSphere's work.
38. 3/10/83: Valley Camp submits a response to the third-round deficiency letter.
39. 4/4/83: OSM and EnviroSphere meet to discuss problems with products. Decision is made to terminate contract.
40. 5/11/83: OSM completes in-house review of Valley Camp's 3/10/83 submittal and finds two items to be "incomplete".
41. 5/23/83: DOGM issues "preliminary" DOC on permit application, deferring major technical deficiency issues to TA/EA stage and forwards fourth-round deficiency letter to company.
42. 6/13/83: OSM/DOGM forward a letter to the applicant stating that a decision on the permit will be made in 12/83.
43. 6/10/83: Contract awarded to Engineering Sciences for review of mine plan - \$82,198.
44. 6/17/83: Valley Camp responds to remaining completeness items, (i.e. Topsoil issue).

45. 8/9/83: Draft DOA submitted to DOGM identifying outstanding technical deficiencies. DOGM forwards draft DOA letter to the applicant.
46. 8/19/83: DOGM/OSM/Valley Camp meet to discuss 8/9 DOA.
47. 8/24/83: Final DOA forwarded to Valley Camp.
48. 9/2/83: OSM/Engineering Sciences/Valley Camp meet in Denver to clarify the applicant's questions on the deficiency document.
49. 9/16/83: Valley Camp submits partial response to DOA to DOGM.
50. 9/16/83: Valley Camp transmits, under separate cover, a letter to DOGM stating its inability to respond to five major technical deficiencies until 10/17/83.
51. 9/20/83: Decision made by OSM to allow Valley Camp's authorization to mine Federal coal in the Lower O'Connor seam to expire.

SEP 29 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Manger  
Utah Task Force Leader

FROM: Sarah Branson   
Project Leader

Subject: Remaining Deficiencies-Valley Camp  
Belina Mine Complex

On September 16, 1983, Valley Camp submitted to DOGM a list of five items which the applicant feels he cannot respond to until October 17, 1983. As assigned, I have identified where/when OSM has previously requested this information and the deadlines, if any, for submitting this information.

I. UMC 783.15 Ground Water Information

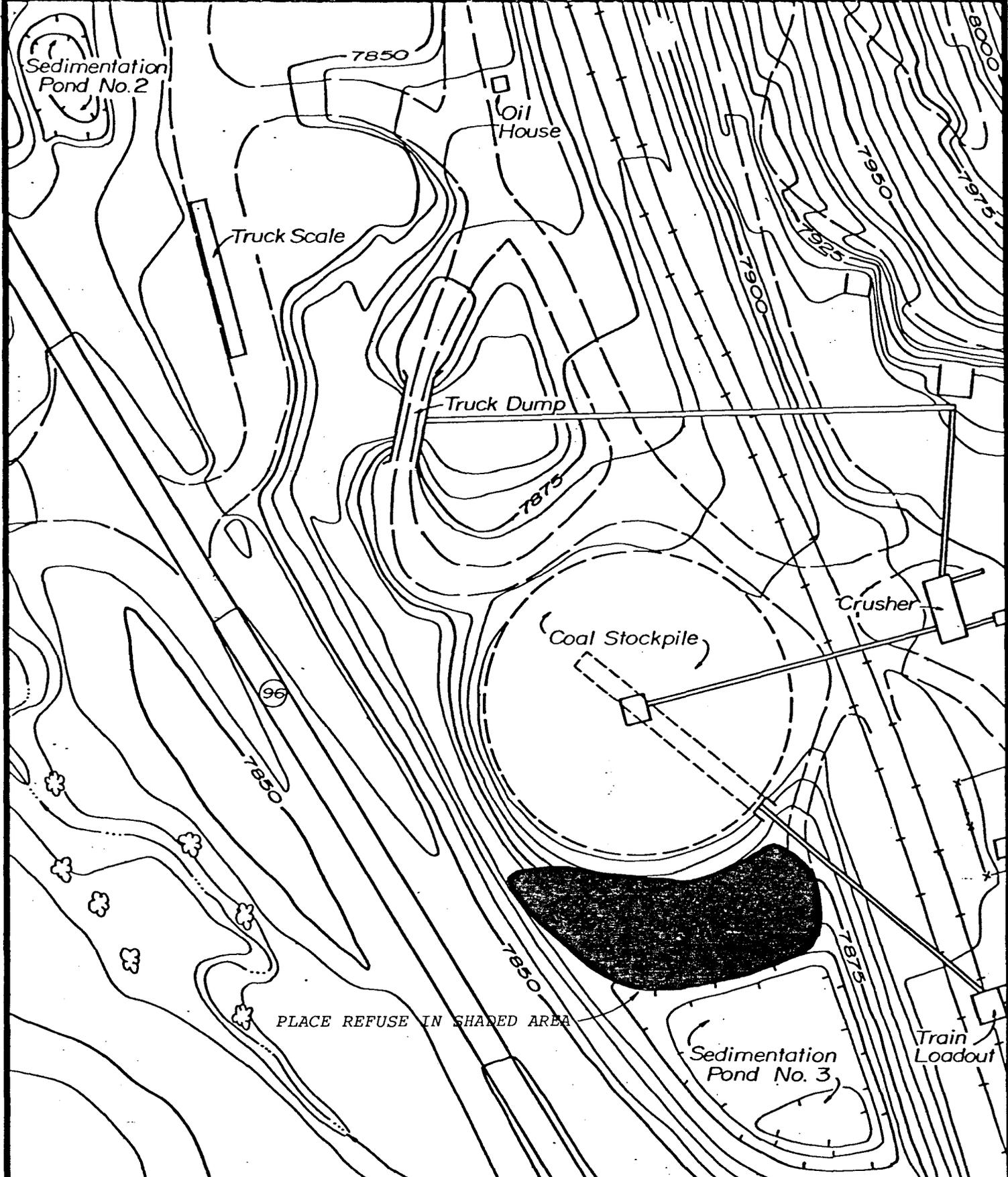
Required: Specific geologic cross sections showing both faults and the dike in the permit area.

Background: On August 31, 1983 Valley Camp indicated through their hydrologic consultant, Van Hansen, that drill logs were readily available to respond to this deficiency. On September 15, 1983, Valley Camp contacted Engineering Sciences (Mike Bishop) and indicated that the logs did not adequately show the faults and dike; therefore, new cross sections were required. Bishop indicated (9/26) that this was not a sizeable effort and normally could be constructed within a week.

Dates of Request and Deadlines:

The request for this information was made on the following dates:

1. August 24, 1983 revised DOA required a response by September 16, 1983.
2. August 9, 1983 draft DOA required a response by September 16, 1983.
3. May 23, 1983 preliminary DOC from DOGM. Under UMC 783.14 Geology Description, it was stated that in order to initiate the TA, Valley Camp must provide the drill logs and geophysical logs for cross section construction. At this point, Valley Camp was informed, by OSM's 12/22/82 letter, that a decision would be made on the application by 9/16/83.
4. February 7, 1983 ACR identified logs as still missing, however, 783.15 was deemed adequate for the purpose of determining "completeness".



DRAWN BY: ED SANDERSON

DATE: 9/24/83

CHECKED BY:

DATE:

REVISED BY:

SCALE:  
1" = 100'

APPROVAL ENG.:

APPROVAL SAFETY:

TITLE:  
UTAH NO. 2 AREA

APPROVAL MINE:



**VALLEY CAMP of UTAH**  
SCOFIELD ROUTE  
HELPER, UTAH 84526

DRAWING NO.

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REV. NO.

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