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# VALLEY CAMP OF UTAH, INC.

Scofield Route
Helper, Utah 84526

23 January 1986

RECEIVED
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DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

Ms. Susan C. Linner
Reclamation Biologist/
Permit Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Re: Annual Subsidence Monitoring Submittal (September 1985) For The Belina Complex Review. ACT/007/001, Folder Nos. 4 & 10 Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Linner:

As requested, Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. has prepared the following responses for your clarification of our subsidence monitoring, underground mining procedure, as well as geological attributes which might effect ground water conditions.

(Request 1). Indicate the difference between pillared areas and full seam extraction, as indicated on the legend of Plate 3.

(Response 1). Pillared areas, as shown on Plate 3, are where the roof support pillars of the first mining are extracted systematically (as per the approved mine plan) to assure relief of the overriding stresses to allow safe maximized extraction and protection of the natural resource in the retreat mining phase.

Full seam extraction involves three steps of excavation: first, the panel is developed within the upper ten feet of the seam as rooms and pillars. Two feet of top coal are left and bolted (as per the approved mine plan). In the second step, the pillars are split in halves by 20 feet wide rooms and bolted according to the mine plan. The third step involves pulling the bottom coal of all of the rooms. The second and third steps are carried out in sequence, for safety, maximum efficiency and ground stability.

For complete analysis of the full seam extraction method, MSHA in Price, Utah, and Denver, Colorado, has copies, for review, of the technical report, "Thick Seam Retreat Mining with Narrow Pillars", which was prepared for Valley Camp of Utah, Inc. by Kenneth C. Ko & Associates, Inc. in Denver, Colorado.

(Requests 2 & 3). Show the current mining area(s) in the area(s) mined since the last subsidence report, and the area(s) and seam(s) that are planned to be mined between now and the next subsidence report, and state type of mining (room and pillar or longwall) that will be employed.

(Responses 2 & 3). At this time, the Belina No. 2 Mine is in standby status, with no plans, in the near future, for mining that seam. Enclosed is an updated Belina No. 1 Mine Map showing dates mined, faults, faulted zones, caves, water sump and the sedimentation settlement area.

Also, the map indicates active and projected areas, as well. To date, only the room and pillar mining method is practiced. At this point in time, there are no plans for altering our present mining techniques; however, if mining conditions change, we may revise our projections accordingly.

In reference to ground water, the gouge zones of the faults do, in fact, produce heavy flows of water, which usually lessen within a few days. Generally speaking, the ground water encountered is likened to rain, rather than drippers or flows.

(Request 4). Submit subsidence data (surface measurements and changes in elevations).

(Response 4). Enclosed is the 1984 First East Mains subsidence monitoring survey results.

The 1985 subsidence monitoring was delayed until the fall of 1986, due to a heavy snowfall prior to natural defoliation of the trees. The aerial flight, subsidence control extension and the direct level survey, were scheduled together this year to provide us with a more comprehensive comparison between the photogrammetric and the direct level surveys.

(Request 5). Discuss water production in the mine since the last subsidence report and summarize any changes in quantity and quality.

(Response 5). The water in Belina No. 1 Mine is decreasing overall; however, above average snowfall has appeared to

influence discharge from time to time. The only quality changes observed have related to iron, which were evidenced in the analysis reports you have on file.

If you need further information, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Steven K. Tanner

Enclosures

Copy to: Trevor G. Whiteside