

Blackhawk Coal Company
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007-002 #2
cc S. Linneman

orig mine file
route to H. Braxton
C. K. May
AEP
FUEL
SUPPLY

Ms. Dianne Nielson
Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

RECEIVED
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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

January 24, 1989

RE: RECENT DECISIONS ON BLACKHAWK COAL COMPANY'S
EASTERN COAL RESERVES

Dear Ms. Nielson:

As part of an ongoing review of our coal holdings, Blackhawk Coal Company (Blackhawk) has recently examined its Eastern Coal Reserves in Carbon County, Utah. As a result, Blackhawk has decided that the best course of action with respect to these reserves is to complete reclamation of the small remaining surface disturbance located at Willow Creek. With this decision finalized, I have prepared this letter to inform you of the steps which Blackhawk will be taking. This letter will serve as official notification that Blackhawk wishes to do the following:

- (1) Withdraw mid-permit term submittal,
- (2) Delete permit areas which are not associated with the surface disturbance, and
- (3) Finalize a reclamation plan and complete reclamation of remaining disturbances within the existing approved permit area

(1) WITHDRAWAL MID-PERMIT TERM SUBMITTAL

Blackhawk hereby withdraws its mid-permit term submittal dated May 22, 1987.

Blackhawk had submitted a rather extensive mid-permit term submittal in response to the partitioning of its Eastern and Western Coal Reserves.

January 24, 1989
Ms. Dianne Nielson
Page 2

The submittal included all information available from the original permit document that was pertinent to the Eastern Coal Reserves only.

It is our understanding that the mid-permit term process will be completed by allowing Blackhawk to submit only a reclamation plan for a disturbance that existed prior to 1977 but was partially permitted for a use associated with planned activities. This will greatly reduce the amount of information required. Blackhawk staff will work diligently with Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM) staff to ensure that a reclamation plan is prepared for the permitted disturbance that meets the requirements of applicable statutes and regulations.

(2) DELETE PERMIT AREAS WHICH ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE SURFACE DISTURBANCE

During the course of partitioning what is now the Castle Gate Coal Company property from the Eastern Coal Reserves, Blackhawk retained a small portion of permitted coal in the northwest corner of the mine plan area. There is no surface disturbance associated with this approved permit area and no mining can take place there. Blackhawk wishes to delete this area from the approved permit.

Dropping this area from the approved permit area would greatly simplify any future submittals. Furthermore, since there is no surface disturbance associated with this area, there is no need for reclamation of the area. This obviates the need to keep this area within an approved permit boundary.

(3) COMPLETE RECLAMATION OF EXISTING SURFACE DISTURBANCE

Certain portions of the permit area have already been reclaimed and Blackhawk's goal is to complete reclamation while minimizing disturbance to existing vegetation in the permit area and that vegetation outside of the permit area. We will work with the

January 24, 1989
Ms. Dianne Nielson
Page 3

UDOGM staff to ensure that reclamation of the remainder of the approved permit area is completed.

At present, Blackhawk is hopeful that this reclamation will be completed during the next working season which will be the fall of 1989. Toward this end, we will be forwarding a conceptual reclamation plan within the next several weeks.

We look forward to working with UDOGM to ensure that timely and cost effective reclamation of this site is completed. We believe that it is in the best interest of all parties to ensure that site activities are completed as quickly as possible and the site reclaimed to support the intended final land uses.

SUMMARY

The reclamation of this site will be in the best long-term interest of all parties. Blackhawk is committed to timely and cost effective reclamation that is compatible with adjacent land uses found in the area as I know you and your staff are. We look forward to working toward the common goal of reclaiming the site, establishing the postmining land uses, releasing the bond and removing inspection and maintenance from your books as well as ours.

If you have any questions, or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



J. E. Katlic
President & Chief Operating Officer

JEK/hec

APPROVED
LEGAL-FSD

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