

0030

**SOUTHEASTERN UTAH
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

HAROLD JACOBS
Chairman
WILLIAM D. HOWELL
Executive Director

P. O. Drawer ⁴¹⁰⁶ AT • Price, Utah 84501
Telephone 637-5444

15 June 1984

Dear Susan:

I thought you might be interested in our approach to the PRCC's situation.

Any suggestions you may have concerning reclamation would be appreciated.

RECEIVED

JUN 18 1984

DIVISION OF OIL
GAS & MINING

Thanks,

Leah Ann

SOUTHEASTERN UTAH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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Copy to Sue

LEE SEMKEN
Chairman

P.O. Drawer 1106 • Price, Utah 84501-0881 • Telephone (801) 637-5444

WILLIAM D. HOWELL
Executive Director

June 15, 1984

Mr. Steve McNeal
Engineering and Construction Grants
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
P.O. Box 2500
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Dear Mr. McNeal:

Enclosed is a copy of the May 29, 1984 letter from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM) to the Price River Coal Company (PRCC) regarding the coal refuse pile adjacent to the Price River. This enclosure contains a copy of the March 21, 1984 letter from the PRCC to the DOGM outlining PRCC's proposed reclamation plan.

As I explained to you in our telephone conversation of May 29, 1984, the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG) has mixed reactions to DOGM's determination of no jurisdiction under the Mined Lands Reclamation Program to regulate reclamation of this hazard. This determination eliminates the regulatory burden for Price River Coal Company and in theory should facilitate prompt reclamation efforts. However, the SEUALG is concerned that:

1. PRCC will indeed initiate reclamation efforts now that DOGM and the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) have determined that they have no regulatory authority in the matter; and
2. The reclamation will proceed with minimum impact on the Price River.

To address these concerns the SEUALG is requesting that the Department of Health, Bureau of Water Pollution Control take responsibility for coordinating removal of this hazard, for approving a reclamation plan, and for enforcing the reclamation agreement.

It is our belief that the PRCC wishes to remove this pile in a conscientious manner as indicated in their March 21, 1984 letter to DOGM. The reclamation plan outlined in this letter provides for the efficient removal and sorting of the coal. However, this plan does not adequately provide for the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the impact of this project on the Price River.

Mr. Steve McNeil

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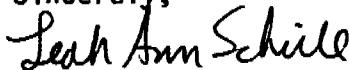
It seems inevitable that work on the pile will result in coal sloughing into the river. To minimize the deposition of coal and the downstream impacts of the erosion, the SEUALG proposes that PRCC's reclamation plan be amended to include:

1. Reclamation work on the coal pile should begin no earlier than July 1, 1984 and end no later than February 28, 1984.
2. Prior to initiation of reclamation, the river bank adjacent to the coal pile should be permanently stabilized with riprap and backfill. A Corps 404 permit will be required for this activity.
3. Prior to initiation of reclamation, temporary in-stream erosion protection should be installed. The preferred measure is the construction of a jetty perpendicular to the flow, extending from the bank adjacent to the coal pile. This jetty would slow the movement of water in front of the coal pile and reduce the amount of eroded coal moving downstream. Coal settling out in this region must be removed prior to removal of the temporary jetty. Again, a Corps 404 permit will be required for this fill.
4. All temporary Best Management Practices (jetty, etc.) must be maintained through the reclamation project.
5. All temporary Best Management Practices must be removed after reclamation is complete.

Perhaps an on-site meeting with representatives from the Corps, DOGM, OSM, Department of Wildlife Resources and the PRCC would facilitate adoption of a feasible and acceptable reclamation plan. I would be able to provide assistance coordinating such a meeting. Additionally, I have enclosed a copy of the letter I am sending to PRCC suggesting the implementation of BMPs.

Please notify me of your office's determination of authority in this matter. I believe this hazard can be removed with the aid of your office and the cooperation of the PRCC.

Sincerely,



Leah Ann Schirle

Water Quality Program Assistant

LAS:db

Enclosures

cc: Dalton, DWR
Skordal, COE
Linner, DOGM
Maxwell, OSM

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LEE SEMKEN
Chairman

P.O. Drawer 1106 • Price, Utah 84501-0881 • Telephone (801) 637-5444

WILLIAM D. HOWELL
Executive Director

June 15, 1984

Mr. Robert Wiley
Price River Coal Company
P.O. Box 629
Helper, UT 84526

Dear Mr. Wiley:

As you know, the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG) is concerned with the removal of the abandoned coal pile on Blackhawk Coal Company property adjacent to the Price River.

This office has been notified by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOG M) of their determination of no jurisdiction under the Mined Lands Reclamation Program to regulate removal of this pile. Furthermore, this office has been informed of Price River Coal Company's plan to proceed with removal of this pile in a few weeks according to the reclamation plan outlined in your letter of March 21, 1984 to DOGM.

This office is encouraged by the progress made toward resolving this matter and the prospect that the pile may be removed by the end of this year. However, as Water Quality Management Agency for the four county Southeastern region, this office is concerned that reclamation will proceed with minimum impact on the Price River. To this end, it is strongly suggested that you consider amending your reclamation plan to include the following:

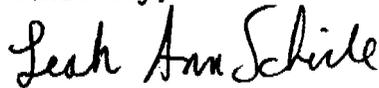
1. Reclamation work on the coal pile should begin no earlier than July 1, 1984 and end no later than February 28, 1984.
2. Prior to initiation of reclamation, the river bank adjacent to the coal pile should be permanently stabilized with riprap and backfill. A Corps 404 permit will be required for this activity.
3. Prior to initiation of reclamation, temporary in-stream erosion protection should be installed. The preferred measure is the construction of a jetty perpendicular to the flow, extending from the bank adjacent to the coal pile. This jetty would slow the movement of water in front of the coal pile and reduce the amount of eroded coal moving downstream. Coal settling out in this region must be removed prior to removal of the temporary jetty. Again, a Corps 404 permit will be required for this fill.

Mr. Robert Wiley
Page 2

4. All temporary Best Management Practices (jetty, etc.) must be maintained through the reclamation project.
5. All temporary Best Management Practices must be removed after reclamation is complete.

Thank you for consideration of our concerns. I will be contacting you shortly to discuss the status of your reclamation plan. If you have any questions, please contact me at 637-5444.

Sincerely,



Leah Ann Schirle
Water Quality Program Assistant

LAS:db

cc: McNeal, BWPC
Skordal, COE
Dalton, DWR
Maxwell, OSM
Linner, DOGM