

December 17, 1985

TO: File

FROM: James Leatherwood, Reclamation Soils Specialist

RE: Clarification of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) submitted, May 6, 1985 Regarding refuse sampling methodology, Price River Coal Company, ACT/007/004, Carbon County, Utah

Summary and Conclusions:

On October 31, 1985 Price River Coal Company expressed concern to OSM's May 6, 1985 response to Condition one. The OSM modification to condition one stated that the sampling methodology should be changed to avoid mixing of samples. Price River Coal Company speculated that this would connote additional sampling per acre. Through conversation with OSM, DOGM has determined that sampling would remain as one independent representative sample per acre. This representative sample should not be composited with other samples from the acre in question.

Recommendation: The operator sample one individual representative site for each acre.

Body

OSM response to condition one submitted May 6, 1985 stated that the sampling methodology should be changed to avoid mixing samples. Price River Coal Company expressed concern that a denser sampling rate would be economically unjustified. On November 6, 1985, James Leatherwood of the Division contacted Mark Humphrey of OSM by telephone. It was determined that composite sampling could lead to one of the following determinations: A) Good material, B) Intermediate material, and C) Hot and/or Toxic material. Composite sampling may mask hot and/or toxic site's by dilution from other co-samples. The result would show an intermediate material. The probability of finding a hot and/or toxic site would be remote. Therefore it is recommended that one individual representative be sampled for each acre. Care should be taken for sample adequacy. Further sampling maybe justified to delineate a problem area if one representative sample shows a hot and/or toxic site.

jvb

cc: D. Darby
S. Linner
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