

# FILE COPY

007/022

October 7, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Kent Wheeler, Reclamation Hydrologist *KW*

RE: Initial Completeness Review of New Permit Area for Willow Creek, Submitted June 3, 1987, Blackhawk Coal Company, ACT/007/002, Carbon County, Utah.

## SUMMARY:

Blackhawk Coal Co. proposes permitting an area north of the current Willow Creek permit area. The application contains no proposed mining or mining related activities (surface or underground). This additional permit area is to make the sale of the of the Willow Creek pad area and the permitted area north of Castlegate one contiguous piece of land, thereby allowing the extraction of coal from the northern permit area using the access gained from the Willow Creek pad site.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The baseline data does not delineate the hydrologic system of the new permit area. The seep and spring survey was only a cursory survey with no on site investigation to find unknown and unrecorded springs. Furthermore, the applicant needs to delineate the seasonal variability of the springs.

No hydrologic structures are proposed.

Because no disturbances are proposed a groundwater monitoring program is not necessary at this time. However, before any mining or mining related activities occur in the expanded proposed permit area a approved groundwater monitoring plan will have to be submitted. This will require the collection of two years of baseline data from each of the three aquifers in the permit area. The following concerns must be addressed before the permit application for the addition of the new land can be considered complete.

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BODY:

UMC 783.16 Surface Water Information

The MRP states that no on-site spring and seep survey has been conducted. Seeps and springs are important wildlife habitat and critical for understanding the groundwater system in the area. A thorough site investigation needs to be made in the spring when the aquifers are recharged and all ephemeral seeps and springs should be flowing. To delineate the seasonal variability on-site measurements need to be made in the spring and fall at each seep and spring identified during the spring (season) survey. The survey should note the location of each seep or spring along with any relevant geologic information including the formation, lithology and the cause of discharge (joints, contacts, headscarps, ect.). Along with discharge, the temperature, pH, and conductivity should be measured and any apparent uses should be noted.

cc  
S. Linner  
R. Summers  
D. Darby