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August 26, 1997

Mr. Daron Haddock
 Permit Supervisor
 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
 P.O. Box 145801
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801

Re: Site Visit Summary - Covol Wash Plant and Refuse Pond Mining - NEICO, Wellington Preparation Plant, ACT007/012-97D, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Daron:

On August 22, 1997, we met at the coal fines refuse ponds in Wellington to discuss the above project. In attendance were:

DOGM

Daron Haddock
 Sharon Falvey
 Wayne Western
 Paul Baker

COVOL

Brent Atkin
 Robert Gabby
 Russ Madsen

OTHER

Steve Traweek - Earthco
 Mark - RB&G Geotechnical
 Rick Hoggan - Millcreek Eng'g.
 Karla Knoop - JBR Environmental
 Tim Thompson - JBR Environmental
 Gil England - CIC Inc.
 Larry - CIC Inc.

Covol requested this meeting to describe their plans for reclaiming the coal fines in the three refuse ponds, washing them and returning the ash product into the northwest and upper ponds. Other topics discussed included modifications necessary to the approved construction amendment, format of the forthcoming mining amendment and the county road upgrade. Details of your afternoon inspection of the West side of the permit area are not addressed herein.

Revision to the Construction Amendment

A better location to load trucks with the clean coal is on top of the coarse refuse pile instead of between the plant and office trailer as shown on Figure 5.12-1. Hence a ramp to support a conveyor up to this loadout is needed. The main access gate will be moved north 600 ft. and cut into the existing fencing to accommodate this change and to make the entrance safer. Now that a dredge has been selected for mining, a 30 ft. diameter slurry surge tank must be constructed near the plant where the topsoil stockpile was planned. The new topsoil stockpile will be located

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adjacent to the existing topsoil stockpile north of the coarse refuse pile. Revisions to the topsoil balance calculations will be required for this tank.

Forthcoming Mining Amendment

After analysis of various mining methods, a dredge is the safest, most effective and economical approach to reclaiming these coal fines. "Dry" mining with typical earthmoving equipment in the northwest/upper refuse pond area will be required to create a starting point for the dredge and a containment basin for washed tails. Details on the mining plan, water balance and equipment selections will be presented in the mining amendment. This method also provides for a final restoration that will allow removal of the lower refuse dam and the clearwater dam.

Agreements were reached on issues related to the format and contents of the soon-to-be-submitted mining amendment. Since the Mining Reclamation Plan (MRP) must cover the "worst case scenario" (4 ft. of cover over the entire refuse basin area), no changes will be included in this submittal. This is justified by the fact that the washed tails will fill in the upper pond as mining proceeds from north to south. It may be stipulated that the MRP be revised when the dredge enters the lower pond since this is the point where a significant change in the post mining topo begins to occur. This approach will also allow for a more realistic MRP based on actual experience. Earthco will attend to issues of the potential topsoil borrow areas for these ponds under the current MRP.

Regarding the Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC), it is reasonable to address water issues for this project that are east of the river only. This is because the river is technically a line of demarcation between Covol's activities on the east and Earthco's plans on the west. Additionally, Covol will continue to be considered as a contractor rather than as an operator for purposes of information required in Chapter 1. Post mining land use will not be addressed in this minor amendment. The redline/strikeout method of revising the existing permit that is on the shelf at the DOGM library will again be used. Each chapter that is affected will also have an initial page titled "Summary of Current Site Conditions" to act as a catch-all for miscellaneous changes that may confuse the reader.

County Road Improvements

Access to the site is provided by Farnham Road. It meets the criteria necessary to be considered a county road. Covol has asked Carbon County to upgrade their road to provide safer travel for everyone. DOGM agreed that if the county wants to begin improving their road, within their right of way, and it does not impact any disturbed land in the permit area, then the county can. The only maps required will be ones that show the revised alignment for the road.

The above notes are my best recollection of some of the issues discussed. Please call me if certain points were not made in the context as described above. To assist in the Division's understanding, Covol and JBR intend to come in to your office for a technical briefing after the mining amendment is submitted. In the meantime, please contact Covol or Tim Thompson, JBR, 943-4144 if you have any questions. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Thompson, P.E.

cc: Daron Haddock
Sharon Falvey
Wayne Western
Paul Baker
Steve Brown
Harlan Hatfield
Russ Madsen
Brent Atkin
Rick Hoggan
Karla Knoop
Steve Traweek
Gil England
Kurt Jardine