



United States Department of the Interior
 OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
 Reclamation and Enforcement
 BROOKS TOWERS
 1020 15TH STREET
 DENVER, COLORADO 80202

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Melvin T. Smith
 State Historic Preservation
 Officer
 Utah State Historical Society
 307 West 200 South, Suite 100
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Attention: Jim Dykman

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is reviewing Beaver Creek Coal Company's (formerly Swisher Coal Company) Gordon Creek #2 (UT-0010) modification, under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This Office requests your review and concurrence with our intent to approve the mine plan modification with stipulations.

This underground mine has been operating since 1968 under U.S. Geological Survey approvals. Our review has determined that a cultural resources inventory has never been conducted on the mine site. The Environmental Analysis prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey, November 10, 1977, stated that "There is nothing in the area of significant recreational, cultural, scientific, historical, archeological or paleontological interest. The area has been given an archeological clearance by a qualified archeologist" (see attachment #1). The later statement was evidently incorrect (see attachment #2). However, when the U.S.G.S. requested an "Archeological and Historical Site Clearance" from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (see attachment #3) the BLM indicated that such a clearance was not required on private surface "at that time" (see attachment #4).

The mine is located approximately 4 miles SE of Scofield, in Carbon County. Beaver Creek Coal has indicated that no further surface disturbance shall take place except for some possible exploratory drilling, and that anticipated subsidence will be between 1 and 2 feet. However, due to the inexact nature of subsidence formulas, and their failure to allow for specific overburden characteristics such as massive sandstone beds, it is doubtful that such a calculation can accurately predict subsidence in areas such as this. Subsidence will not occur for several years because pillars will only be pulled upon retreat and entries must be maintained until that time. Overburden is approximately 700 feet thick with sandstone and shales interbedded. Surface topography is steep and rugged and the elevation ranges from 8,000 to 9,300 feet.

Based on the above, we feel that with the following stipulations the approval of this action should have no affect on cultural resources which may be located within the mine plan area:

3- APR 1980

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 APR 08 1980

DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

Et. to Ran
MSW
File in Swisher
R #2

- 1) During mining operations, if any previously unidentified cultural resources should be discovered, the operator shall ensure that the site is not disturbed and shall notify the regulatory authority. The operator shall consult with and obtain the approval of the regulatory authority and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer concerning the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.
- 2) The operator shall ensure that a 10 percent sample survey shall be conducted by a professional archeologist and historian on all areas where there is a potential for subsidence. The archeologist and historian must be approved by the regulatory authority and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer. A proposal that describes plans and methods for this survey shall be provided by the operator within 90 days of acceptance of this approval. A professionally acceptable report of the findings shall be submitted for approval to the regulatory authority and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer before December 31, 1980.
- 3) Should sites which could be sensitive to subsidence (e.g., structures, rock art, rock shelters) be located, the operator will immediately consult with the regulatory authority and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer to determine whether mitigation measures or monitoring activities are necessary to either avoid adverse impacts or determine whether the site will be impacted by subsidence.

Should you have any questions, please contact Judy Shafer with our office at (303) 837-5656.

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE

Attachments (4)

cc: ✓ Mary Ann Wright
Utah Division of
Oil, Gas and Mining
Rich Fike, BLM State
Office

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent adverse impact upon fish and wildlife

Because of the small scale nature of the operation the effects on fish and wildlife will be negligible.

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent permanent damage to vegetation, crop or timber

There is no agricultural use of the area and timbering operations are infeasible.

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent creations of unsafe or hazardous conditions

The Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration of the Department of the Interior has established rules and regulations governing every aspect of safety in and around all coal mines and regularly dispatches safety inspectors to insure that these regulations are being followed.

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent damage to improvements
There are no improvements in the area to damage.

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent damage to recreational, cultural, -scientific, historical, archeological and paleontological values
There is nothing in the area of significant recreational, cultural, scientific, historical, archeological or paleontological interest. The area has been given an archeological clearance by a qualified archeologist.

Methods and measures to minimize, control or prevent adverse impacts on adjacent land use

Nothing of the operation will affect or interfere with adjacent land uses.

Measures to comply with operating and reclamation standards
Operating and reclamation standards will be complied with.

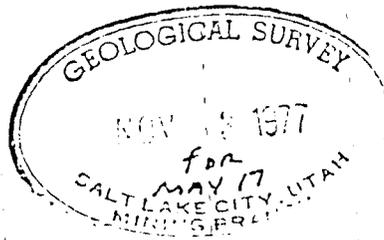
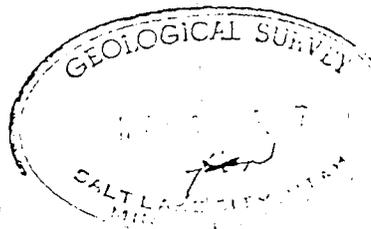
State reclamation standards adopted

The area involved at the #2 Mine is BLM controlled and hence reclamation will be done under their standards, supervision and recommendation.

Anticipated starting dates for each phase of the mining operation
Surface construction is complete and mining began in 1968.

Attachment ✓

Mining Plan
Gordon Creek #2 Mine
Swisher Coal



MINING PLAN APPROVED BY U.S.G.S.
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS

Date: JAN 24, 1978

By: James J. Devo
(F.A.D.) Mining Supervisor

Deputy Mining Supervisor

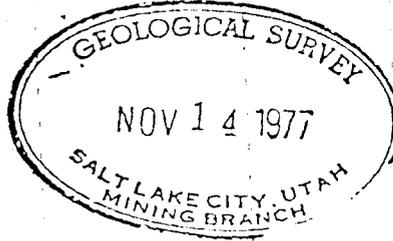
Ralph J. Blum
Mining Engineer

attachment-2

SWISHER COAL CO.

P. O. BOX A U
PRICE, UTAH 84501
PHONE 801-637-5050

November 11, 1977



Jackson W. Moffitt
Area Mining Supervisor
U.S. Geological Survey
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Jack:

The following information is submitted in response to your letter of November 8, 1977 regarding the 211 mine plan for the Gordon Creek #2 Mine.

- ✓1. Enclosed are seven copies of the map of the surface facilities.
- ✓2. Enclosed is a typical plan for panel extraction entitled "Generalized Mine Development Procedure".
- ✓3. Enclosed are seven copies of our roof control plan approved by MESA which shows the method of pulling pillars in #2 Mine.
- ✓4. Enclosed are seven copies of our roof control plan approved by MESA which lists all the major equipment used in #2 Mine.
- ✓5. Production estimates thru 1982 are as follows:

MINES
IN MINE
PLANS

1978	209,682 tons
1979	272,336 tons
1980	318,216 tons
1981	318,216 tons
1982	318,216 tons

- ✓6. It is estimated that thru 1982 approximately 50 men will be employed in #2 Mine.
- ✓7. The statement that "the area has been given an archeological clearance" is in error and refers to the Huntington Canyon #4 and #5 Mines which have been cleared. As you are aware, the upper Gordon Creek area is a very old mining district. The towns of Coal City, Sweets, and Consumers once thrived here and mining activity was heavy. Any artifacts of archeological importance, if ever present in the area, surely would have been recognized and preserved or else destroyed at the hands of

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

U-8319

U-8319-1

Office of the Area Mining Supervisor
Conservation Division
8426 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

November 21, 1977

Memorandum

To: District Manager, BLM, Moab

From: Mining Engineer

Subject: Environmental Analysis, Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine, Swisher
Coal Company--Federal leases U-8319 and U-8319-1

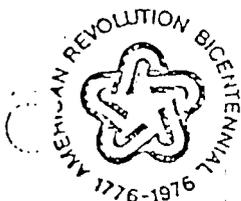
Attached for your concurrence and stipulations is the environmental analysis for Swisher's Gordon Creek No. 2 mine at Gordon Creek, T. 13 S., R. 8 E., Sec. 18. Also attached are 2 copies of the mining and reclamation plan. One of these copies is labeled as Appendix 8 and is part of the environmental analysis. The confidential material has been removed from the plans and will be retained in this office to insure the security of the material. This includes the coal isopachs and the reserve estimates.

Along with your concurrence and stipulations (if any), we also need a "Endangered and Threatened Species Clearance" and a "Archeological and Historical Site Clearance."

We were required by 30 CFR 211.1(d) to have the mine plans approved by November 17, 1977. As you can see we are a little late. Taking this into account we would appreciate your expediency in concurring with the environmental analysis. We are sorry for rushing your office, and if there is anything we can do to aid you or clarify any point, please contact this office.

Ralph J. Blumer
Ralph J. Blumer

Attachments



United States Department of the Interior

U-200
IN REPLY REFER TO

3500 (U-060)
U-8319
U-8319-1 ✓



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Moab District
P. O. Box 970
Moab, Utah 84532

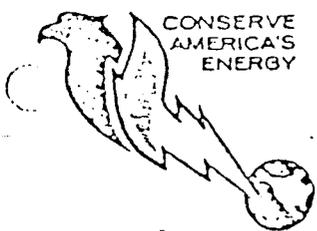
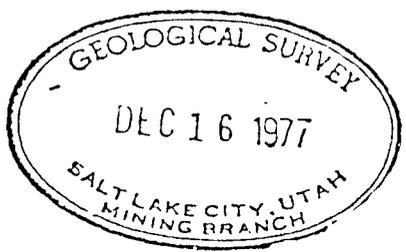
DEC 14 1977

Memorandum

To: Area Mining Supervisor, USGS, Salt Lake City, Utah
From: ^{Asst.} District Manager, Moab
Subject: Environmental Analysis, Gordon Creek No. 2 Mine,
Swisher Coal Company - Federal Leases U-8319 and U-8319-1

We have found no problems with your EAR on Swisher's Gordon Creek No. 2 mine, especially since the surface of the lease is fee land (no BLM administered land involved). We are not required to do either a threatened and endangered species or archaeological clearance on private surface, land over which we have no administrative authority.

J. Lavin Dull



Save Energy and You Serve America!

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
~~OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
POST OFFICE BLDG. RM. 270
1623 SOUTH STREET
DENVER, COLO. 80202~~
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Office of Surface Mining
Brooks Towers
1020-15th Street
Denver, Colo. 80202

Mary Ann Wright
Utah Div. of Oil, Gas
and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116



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