0050

STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

Norman H. Bangerter, Governor
Dee C. Hansen, Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D., Division Director

355 W. North Temple • 3 Triad Center • Suite 350 • Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203 • 801-538-5340

April 1, 1985

Mr. Dan W. Guy, Manager
Permitting and Compliance
Beaver Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Guy:

RE: Proposed Second Mining, Gordon Creek #2 Mine, ACT/007/016, #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has reviewed the material submitted on March 28, 1985 regarding Beaver Creek Coal Company's (BCCC) proposal to reduce the pillar size in the area currently being mined under Beaver Creek.

Based on the detailed subsurface information provided, the Division has determined it is extremely unlikely that subsidence impacts would cause any material damage to Beaver Creek. The Division's finding is based on the following.

Borehole lithologic data derived from the #7 Mine and #2 Mine were correlated and projected to the area of proposed second mining in the #2 Mine, a distance of approximately 3,500 feet. Minor lithologic variation along the correlated section indicate a similar roof and floor lithologies occur in the #2 Mine. Accordingly, the uniaxial strength of roof and floor lithologies in the #2 Mine are assumed to be similar.

Safety factors of 2.4 and 17.36 were calculated for pillars and roof rock, respectively. These values incorporate uniaxial strength data that were correlated from the #7 Mine as described above and are considered conservative for mining.

A maximum subsidence value of 3.85 feet based on complete pillar recovery, was calculated for the entire area of proposed second mining. This value is considered excessive because complete pillar recovery is not proposed.

BCCC's proposal is hereby approved subject to the conditions noted below.

Pursuant to UMC 817.126(a), BCCC is hereby directed to undertake and commit in writing to the following mitigation measures in addition to those proposed to date by BCCC which include the Gordon Creek #2 Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) and submittals dated March 20 and 28.

1. Streamflow data from the two continuous gage stations on Beaver Creek will be compiled and portrayed in a graphical format for flow seasons of 1984 and all subsequent years and submitted to the Division annually beginning January 31, 1985 and January 31 of each year after.

2. BCCC shall not mine the Hiawatha seam underneath Beaver Creek without specific Division approval to do so.

3. BCCC shall perform an aquatic baseline study of the stretch of creek where pillar sizes are to be reduced during the summer of 1984. This will assess the diversity and size of the benthic invertebrate and fishery populations present.

4. BCCC shall compile material submitted March 7, March 20 and March 28 and include the three preceding directives of this letter and submit 14 copies of this to the Division for inclusion as Appendix to the approved MRP.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. It is my hope that in any future request, appropriate lead time for data gathering and Division review can be observed by BCCC to avoid the crises approach to review which has characterized this issue.

Sincerely,

Lowell P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

JW/btb

cc: Allen Klein
Walt Swain
Wayne Hedberg
John Whitehead

9294R-12 & 13