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Mountain Coal Company

Trail Mountain Mine
Post Office Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501
Telephone 801 637-5050 (Price Office)
801 637-5203 (Mine Office)
801 748-2140 (Mine Site)

*Put all of this in
the file.* 

July 9, 1992

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

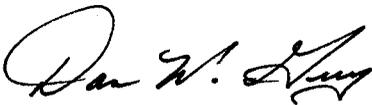
Re: Permit Renewal Conditions
Clarification of Condition #1 - Part 2
Gordon Creek No. 3/6 Mines
ACT/007/017; Folder #2
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

Enclosed are 8 copies of a revised Appendix 9 (not including Plate APP.9) for clarification of Condition #1 - Part 2 as requested in your letter of June 30, 1992. This revision reflects the suggested change from 100 to 1000 shrubs per acre, and, if acceptable, should replace the previously submitted Appendix 9.

If you have any questions, or need any further information, please let me know.

Respectfully,



Dan W. Guy
Manager Permitting/Compliance

cc: Johnny Coffey
Dave Arnolds
File

RECEIVED

JUL 14 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

ATTACHMENT A

FOR

APPENDIX 9

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS STANDARDS

07-09-92

APPENDIX 9

REVEGETATION SUCCESS STANDARDS

07/09/92

CLARIFICATIONS FOR THE REVEGETATION SUCCESS STANDARDS
FOR GORDON CREEK #3 AND #6

ACT/007/017

December 4, 1991
(Revised July 9, 1992)

Clarifications on the revegetation success standards for final bond release for the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 mines were requested by the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOGM).

The postmining land use for these mine areas was determined earlier to be livestock grazing, deer forage, hunting, etc. (MRP, page 4-32). The state and federal revegetation success standards for livestock grazing is primarily based on cover and productivity, whereas, the standards for wildlife habitat is determined on the basis of woody species density and cover. To accommodate the diverse postmining land use, Gordon Creek #3 and #6 mines had two reference areas proposed as standards for revegetation success: the Sagebrush-Grass and the Oakbrush Reference Areas (Map 9-1). The Oakbrush Reference Area requirements were found to be unrealistic, and will not be used as reclamation standards.

At the suggestion of the Division, the Sagebrush-Grass Reference Area standards will be used for all of the reclaimed areas, whereas, the Oakbrush Reference Area standards will not be used. This plan attempts to satisfy requirements for both livestock range and wildlife habitat by providing diverse plant species cover and composition.

Success Standards for Bond Release

The following success standards will be used for determining revegetation success for bond release on the No. 3/6 Mine Site:

- (1) Reference Area - Sagebrush-Grass Reference Area;
- (2) Vegetative Cover - 37%
- (3) Production - 640 pounds per acre
- (4) Shrubs - 1000 per acre.

The above standards were suggested by the Division and subsequently recommended by Mr. Patrick Collins, Ph.D., of Mt. Nebo Scientific. Letters are included in Attachment A of this Appendix. The letters do indicate a success standard of 100 shrubs per acre; however, this has been changed to 1000 shrubs per acre (above) at the request of the Division.



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangertter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

June 30, 1992

Mr. Dan Guy, Manager
Mountain Coal Company
P.O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Guy:

Re: Permit Renewal Condition #1, Part 2, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek #3 & #6 Mines, ACT/007/017, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

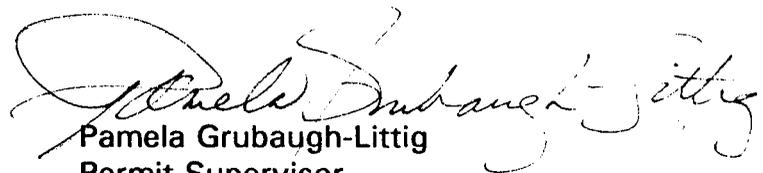
A typographical error was found on my letter to you dated February 20, 1992. The error reads as follows:

Since the entire area had been previously mined, a reasonable goal for the operator to consider would be to achieve a 37% vegetative cover, 640 pounds per acre production and 100 shrubs per acre on the entire reclaimed area.

The statement should read 1000 shrubs per acre. This is noted in the technical memorandum dated February 20, 1992 from Susan White.

Please correct Appendix 9 to show 1000 shrubs per acre as the reclamation success standard.

Sincerely,


Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

jbe

Enclosure

cc: Susan White

007017.PRC

an equal opportunity employer



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangertter
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Executive Director
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

February 21, 1992

Mr. Dan Guy, Manager
Mountain Coal Company
P.O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Guy:

Re: Permit Renewal Conditions - Clarification of Condition #1 - Part 2 Required, Gordon Creek #3 and #6, Mountain Coal Company, ACt/007/017, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division reviewed the responses to Conditions #1 and #2 for the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 permit renewal. Condition #1 - Part 1 is acceptable. Condition #1 - Part 2 is also acceptable. However, the operator should be aware that the cover standard is based on total vegetative ground cover, not just herbaceous cover. The Oakbrush reference area has a much greater cover requirement (79% total cover, 8% herbaceous cover) than the Sagebrush-Grass (37%).

Since the entire area had been previously mined, a reasonable goal for the operator to consider would be to achieve a 37% vegetative cover, 640 pounds per acre production and 100 shrubs per acre on the entire reclaimed site. The Sagebrush-Grass reference area would be used as the standard for the reclaimed area.

Condition #1 - Part 3 and Condition #2 are acceptable.

Please respond to the concerns of Condition #1 - Part 2 by March 31, 1992. If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,


Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor



MT. NEBO SCIENTIFIC
research and consulting

p.o. box 337, springville, utah 84663
phone (801) 489-6937

May 14, 1992

Dan Guy
MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY
P.O. Box 1378
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Dan:

You sent me a copy of a letter to you from Pamela Grubaugh-Littig (DOGM) dated February 21, 1992. You asked me to comment on the standards that were recommended for the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 mine site.

In the letter Pam recommended a standard of 37% vegetative cover, 640 pound per acre production and 100 shrubs per acre on the entire reclaimed site. I find these standards fair and reasonable and would recommend complying with them. I am assuming that the Oakbrush reference area would then be eliminated for standards.

I hope this helps you. Call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Collins, Ph.D.
Biologist/Environmental Consultant