

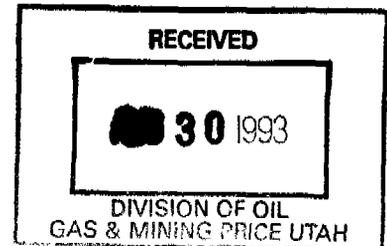
Pending

**Mountain Coal Company**  
West Elk Mine  
Post Office Box 591  
Somerset, Colorado 81434  
Telephone 303 929-5015  
Fax 303 929-5595



August 28, 1993

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



Re: Division Order 93-A  
Mountain Coal Company  
Gordon Creek 2/7/8 Mines  
ACT/007/016-DO-93A; Folder #3  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

Enclosed are 3 copies of the revised Surface Facilities Map (Plate 3-1) for the Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines. The map has been updated to reflect the existing conditions at the site.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Dan W. Guy,  
for Kathleen G. Welt

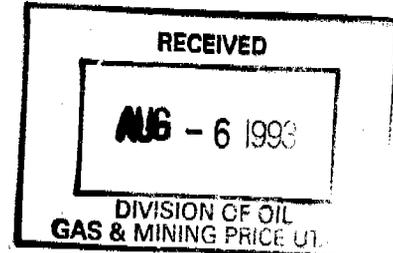
Enclosures

cc: Kathy Welt, MCC  
Bill Malencik, DOGM  
File

**Mountain Coal Company**  
West Elk Mine  
Post Office Box 591  
Somerset, Colorado 81434  
Telephone 303 929-5015  
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August 6, 1993



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: Resubmittal of Plan  
Mountain Coal Company  
Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines  
ACT/007/016; Folder #2  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

Pursuant to your letter of 6/9/93, to Kathleen Welt, Mountain Coal Company is herein resubmitting 6 complete copies of the Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mine Reclamation Plans.

The plans have been edited, and the latest review issues have been addressed. A cross-reference is included to show location of review issue items. Chapters 3,7,8 and 9 have also been totally rewritten.

It is our hope this plan will meet with your approval. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact me or Kathleen Welt.

Respectfully,

Dan W. Guy for  
Kathleen G. Welt, MCC

cc: Kathy Welt - MCC  
Scot Anderson  
File



**State of Utah**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Ted Stewart  
Executive Director

James W. Carter  
Division Director

888 West North Temple  
9 Trial Center, Suite 550  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84100-1208  
801-538-6340  
801-538-3840 (Fax)  
801-538-8919 (TDD)

July 20, 1993

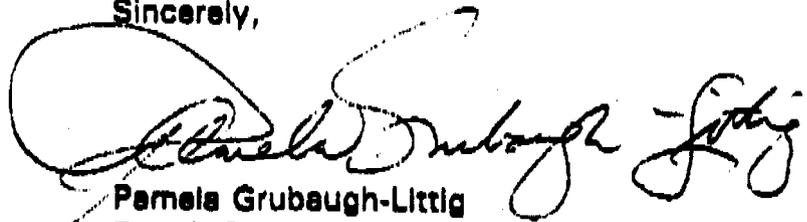
Ms. Kathleen G. Welt  
Environmental Supervisor  
Mountain Coal Company  
P.O. Box 591  
Somerset, Colorado 81434

Dear Ms. Welt:

Re: Extension Granted, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek #2, #7, and #8 Mine, ACT/007/016, Folder #3, Emery County, Utah

Pursuant to your written request dated July 12, 1993, an extension is granted until August 6, 1993 for submittal of the complete and technically adequate (and edited) reclamation plan for the Gordon Creek #2, #7, and #8 Mine. If you have any questions about the reclamation requirements or the technical reviews, please call me or members of my staff at any time.

Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor



**Mountain Coal Company**

West Elk Mine  
Post Office Box 591  
Somerset, Colorado 81434  
Telephone 303 929-5015  
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July 12, 1993

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

**Re: Responses to Issues Identified, Resubmittal of Plan, Mountain Coal Company  
Gordon Creek 2/7/8 Mines, ACT/007/016, Folder #2**

Dear Pam:

Mountain Coal Company (MCC) requests an extension to the due date for the responses to the Division's 2/7/8 Mines Plan resubmittal review issues, to August 6, 1993. Please be assured that MCC is diligently working to resolve these issues, but unforeseen circumstances, including contractor and subcontractor schedule conflicts, have caused delays. Also, the secretary who has worked on this project and is the most familiar with the set-up of the document, has been vacationing out of the Country. She will soon be back and ready to complete the revised document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions. I will keep you informed as to any meeting plans with the OSM in Albuquerque.

Sincerely,

Kathleen G. Welt  
Environmental Supervisor

xc: S. Anderson  
D. Guy  
P. Schmidt



**State of Utah**  
 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

*Received  
 6/15/93*

Michael O. Leavitt  
 Governor  
 Ted Stewart  
 Executive Director  
 James W. Carter  
 Division Director

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 3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
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June 9, 1993

Ms. Kathleen G. Welt  
 Environmental Supervisor  
 Mountain Coal Company  
 P.O. Box 591  
 Somerset, Colorado 81434

Dear Ms. Welt:

Re: Issues Identified, Resubmittal of Plan, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek #2, #7, and #8 Mines, ACT/007/016, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

A review of the resubmitted reclamation plan (received May 10, 1993) has been undertaken by the Division. After the April 1, 1993, meeting at the Division, it was understood that the plan would be resubmitted with a revised backfilling and hydrology plan for the #2 area and some reconsideration of the #7 area in addition to addressing biology and soils issues.

The hydrology, engineering, soils, and biology reviews indicate that the resubmitted plan needs to be edited. Changes that have been made in the plan are not consistent throughout or changes made have not been entirely corrected throughout the resubmittal. There are also technical issues that are still outstanding.

Review issues that have been identified are:

- 1) The Right Fork of Bryner Canyon enters the Main Fork of Bryner Canyon at a **90 degree angle**, a poor design for combining major drainages, which is unacceptable. *Plates 3-7, 3-7A.*
- 2) No increase in riprap protection is proposed in the final Phase II reclamation for the main channel which drops off the fill. This type of proposal indicates major maintenance and questionable stability of the fill during reclamation liability period and possible bond clock setback problems. *Plate 3-7A; App. 7-1*

- 4 3) The proposed stock watering pond is positioned right in the middle of the drainage when its sole purpose is to intercept seep drainage, another poor engineering design. *plates 3-7, 3-7A*
- 4 4) The Sweet's Pond is confusing and disjointed from a review standpoint because the text refers to reclamation, but at the same time states that this same work is completed, but additional work is proposed. *p. 7-57; p. 7-66.*
- 4 5) Drainage at the #7 Mine is confusing in the area of the highwall. The current plan shows two drainages, one being natural. This is not accurate and must be corrected because any drainage in this area is constructed, and therefore, needs designs before plan approval can be granted. *plates 3-7, 3-7A.*
- 4 6) The road reclamation does not completely address drainage reconstruction, where a 30-inch culvert currently exists, a drainage will be reconstructed across the reclaimed road. The permit does not address this designed channel or the need for the separation of disturbed and undisturbed drainage. *PLATE 3-7C; Appendix 7-*
- 4 7) The plan does not address specifics of what criteria, or monitoring procedures will occur to release the operator from having to maintain the sediment pond and being able to remove this structure. There is a comment in the PAP on page 7-33 that "when sediment contributions are within acceptable limits and vegetation criteria has been met the pond will be removed, but no specifics regarding how sediment contributions will be monitored or what vegetation criteria will be met." *p. 7-35*
- 4 8) The identification of alternative sediment control areas is shown on Plates 3-7 and 3-7A. These areas need to be labelled as BTCA Areas 1, 2, and 3, etc in the submittal. The area involved, the runoff volume expected, the treatment proposed, and the inclusion of these areas in the monitoring and maintenance plan. A discussion of removal of these structures and how and when this will take place as well as the rationale for this determination is needed in the PAP. *Plates 3-7, 3-7A; App. 7-1; Plate 3-5*

- 9) Pages 3-45 and 3-46 state, as one justification for retaining Sweet's Pond, is that the embankments of the Pond are revegetated. There is, however, no demonstration in the plan that the pond embankments are revegetated to the regulatory standards (see R645-301-356). *p. 3-45*
- 10) Page 3-46 states, justification for retaining the old fan portal in its present configuration, is that the area is revegetated. There is, however, no demonstration in the plan that this area is revegetated to the regulatory standards (see R645-301-356). *p. 3-46*
- 11) To avoid confusion, Plate 3-2, *Surface Facilities*, which shows the old fan portal area as it will be during Phase 1 of reclamation, should instead be labeled "Plate 3-7B--*Final Reclamation (Phase 1)*," and Plate 3-7B should instead be designated "Plate 3-7C." *Plates 3-2, 3-7B, 3-7C.*
- 12) Cross sections 44+00 and 46+00 (Plate 3-8E) show cut and fill work being done in the area of the old fan portal. Yet the text (page 3-38a) says that no earthwork will be done in this area. *p. 3-38a.*
- 13) Plates 3-7 and 3-7A show two channels draining the bench above the #7 fill; one armored with riprap and the other unarmored. Either one of these channels must be eliminated or else both must be armored. *Plates 3-7, 3-7A*
- 14) There is no provision in the plan for sediment control in the area immediately below the pond during Phase 2 reclamation after the pond has been removed. *Plate 3-7A*
- 15) Plates 3-2 and 3-7B show a fairly large natural channel crossing the reclaimed lower access road near the entrance gate. This channel now goes into a 30-inch CMP culvert which goes beneath the road. However, Plate 3-7B shows this channel in its final configuration as an unarmored channel, with no sediment control, which crosses the reclaimed road and flows inexplicably through a silt fence into the main undisturbed channel. There are three problems with this design: 1) there is commingling of undisturbed drainage from above the fill with disturbed drainage from the surface of the fill; 2) the reestablished channel across the fill is unarmored; and 3) there is no sediment control to prevent entry into the undisturbed drainage of sediment from the surface of the fill. This channel must be properly designed. *Plate 3-7C; App. 7-1.*

- 16) The vegetation and wildlife issues have been addressed in the latest submittal. However, all of the necessary changes to Chapter 9 have not been made, i.e., all of the changes that must be made as a result of the issues being addressed in one part of the plan have not been addressed throughout. *Chapters 3, 7, 8 & 9.*
- 17) The permittee has not addressed issues raised in the March 17, 1993, memo from Henry Sauer regarding demonstration of topsoil suitability for the #2 Mine. In the permittee's May 10, 1993, response, Mr. Dan Guy directs the reader to specific portions of the submittal which addresses the Division's deficiencies. The portion of the submittal which was supposed to address the demonstration of substitute topsoil suitability for the #2 Mine (i.e., page 8-28.1) has been omitted. *Revised ch. 8 p. 8-28.1*
- 18) On pages 3-17 and 3-34 the permittee discusses the burial of concrete foundation. The permittee states that concrete slabs will be left in place and cover with a minimum of two feet. This soil cover depth is not adequate to sustain a permanent vegetative cover. The permittee must commit to covering all concrete slabs with four feet of suitable topsoil material. *Not Changed See R645 301-542.742 2' Reg'd.*
- 19) On page 3-36, paragraph d, the permittee states that the sedimentation pond will remain in place after final bond release. This comment and others like it are contrary to the reclamation plans, maps and cross-sections provided within the submittal. Please make the text necessary changes to establish consistency. *p. 3-36*
- 20) On page 3-37 the permittee states that "All exposed coal outcrops resulting from this operation will be covered with a minimum of four feet of incombustible material..." According to the most recent backfilling and grading plans and cut/fill cross-sections for the mine access road and the #2 Mine, coal seams will not be covered during reclamation operations. *p. 3-37*
- 21) On page 3-38a and page 3-46, the permittee discusses the potential for revegetation work on the downslope of the fan portal pad. Will this revegetation work be accomplished during Phase I reclamation activities? What revegetation work will be done? *p. 3-38a, p. 3-46.*

- 22) On page 3-44 the permittee references section 3.5.7.1 as it pertains to topsoil redistribution. This section of the plan discusses impoundments. Please make necessary changes. *p. 3-44*
- 23) On pages 3-48 and 3-48a the permittee proposes a soil sampling scheme for the #7 & #8 Mines. The permittee proposes sampling soil in areas which receive stockpiled topsoil and subsoil and in areas which will not be backfilled. The permittee then goes on to say that unsuitable material will be removed and covered with four feet of suitable material or covered in place with two feet of suitable material. The permittee must commit to covering (covered in place) all unsuitable material identified by the aforementioned sampling scheme with four feet of suitable material. In addition, the operator must provide a specific time schedule for sampling topsoil material so that laboratory results are received in enough time to determine fertilizer recommendations and the suitability of the material in question. Formulation of fertilizer recommendations based on laboratory results and the covering and/or removal of unsuitable material based on laboratory results must be accomplished prior to seeding activities. *p. 3-48a*
- 24) On page 3-54 the permittee includes, within the revegetation schedule table, the statement "incorporate wood fiber & straw to soil." The text does not discuss incorporation of wood fiber mulch and essentially dismisses the use of straw mulch. Please make necessary changes to reflect the reclamation plan. *p. 3-54*

Other editorial changes:

- Page 7-43 "The pond is not designed or operated as a sediment control structure, and no clean out of sediment is planned." This statement must be changed to reflect cleaning of sediment on a as-needed basis. *p. 7-53*
- Page 7-50a does not exist. *N/A*
- Page 7-59 The water retention basin must be removed from the channel and maintained until bond release and thereafter by the land owner. *Plate 3-7; p. 7-53.*
- Page 7-35 The description of seep channels does not agree with channels shown for the #7 mine area and must reflect accurately what is to be designed and constructed. *p. 7-35; Appendix 7-1.*

- ✕ Page 3-40a Not 3-40b which does not exist, refers to building paper to cover the french drain, please state if this standard engineering practice. What is building paper? *p. 3-40a*
- ✕ Page 7-39 This page needs to describe in greater detail how the transition from undisturbed channel to riprapped channel will be accomplished to prevent any subsequent failure of the riprap in the reconstructed channel at the point of transition. *p. 7-39*
- ✕ Appendix 7-1 The PAP does not reference any plans to monitor rainfall or flows from the reclaimed area as suggested. *p. 7-35*
- ✕ Page 7-71 The testing of base material will occur prior to any riprap being installed and the results approved regarding the sizing of filter layer for insertion into the reclamation plan. *p. 7-68*
- ✕ Page 7-75 The description of "BTCA Areas" needs to occur both in the text and on the plates. When the sediment controls for these areas will be removed will be based on Phase II bond release criteria pending other criteria based on the stability of the site. It is the operator's responsibility to aggressively monitor site stability, so that data can be collected for bond release regarding erosion potential and vegetative success. When the permittee refers to visually monitoring erosion, it would benefit the operator and the Division to mark and keep actual written and/or photographic documentation of site stability. By using the 9" rule for treating rills and gullies, the operator is liable for this criteria at any inspection and should be made perfectly aware of this fact. *No page  
7-75  
p. 7-69*
- ✕ Page 7-40 The operator has failed to adequately address drainage on the reclaimed portion of the road. *Plate 3-7C  
Appendix 7-*
- ✕ Page 3-18 This page mentions Table 8-2 and states that it contains topsoil volumes. However, Table 8-2 in the February 2, 1993, plan does not contain topsoil volumes. Additionally, this page mentions Plate 8-1a, but this plate does not exist in any of the recent submittals. *p. 3-18*

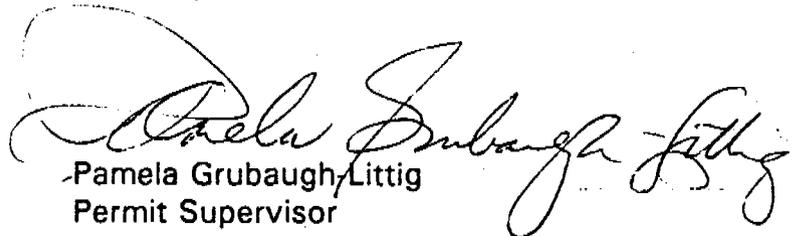
The Division is frustrated with the review of the resubmitted plan and the editorial problems associated with it. I am returning the plans to Mr. Dan Guy, per your request.

Page 7  
May 10, 1993 Resubmittal Review  
ACT/007/016 Reclamation  
June 9, 1993

Please resubmit a corrected and *edited* document with your cover letter outlining all of the changes made by June 30, 1993. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please call me.

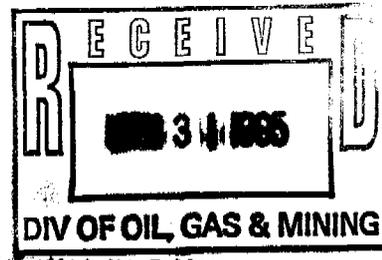
Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor

jbe  
cc: Dan Guy, w/documents  
Lowell Braxton  
007016PL

Mountain Coal Company  
West Elk Mine  
Post Office Box 591  
Somerset, Colorado 81434  
Telephone 303 929-5015



January 31, 1995

Mr. Darron R. Haddock  
Permit Supervisor  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

*95A  
Rec. Response*

Re: Response to Technical Analysis  
Mountain Coal Co.  
Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines  
INA/007/016-94E; #3  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Haddock:

Enclosed are 3 copies of the Mountain Coal Company's response to the 11/7/94 Technical Analysis for the Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines.

All pages and Plates are numbered, and should replace corresponding numbers in the plan. A cross-reference showing locations of responses to deficiency items, and permit change forms are also included.

It should be noted that complete Chapters are being re-submitted to facilitate updating of the plan. The only Chapters containing changes for this review are Chapters 3, 7, and 9. All other chapters have simply been updated for re-formatting, typing errors and page numbers. Original submittal dates have not been changed on Chapters not requiring additional review.

The major changes in the plan with this submittal consist of a commitment and plans to re-reclaim the Old Fan Portal Area, and designs for a new 3-celled sediment pond below the mine site to allow for complete reclamation, as previously discussed.

It is our hope that this permit will meet with your approval, and allow for O.S.M. review and concurrence in time to perform the reclamation this year.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan W. Guy".

Dan W. Guy,  
for Paige B. Beville

cc: Paige Beville, MCC  
Scot Anderson, Arco  
File

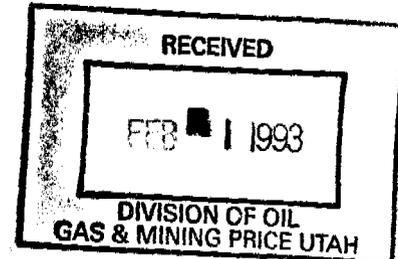


# BLACKHAWK ENGINEERING, CO.

Rt. 1, Box 146-H5 - Helper, Utah 84526 Telephone (801) 637-2422

January 30, 1993

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: Revised Reclamation Permit  
Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines  
ACT/007/016  
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

Enclosed are 6 copies of the revised reclamation permit for the Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines. These are complete new permit applications, and should replace the existing permit upon approval.

Per our discussion, the permit format has not been changed; however, a complete cross-reference to the R645 Regulations is included in the front of the application. Division comments have also been addressed in this submittal. A cross-reference is also included for the comments, showing the location of the response in the plan.

Page 2

I appreciate the Division's willingness to work with Mountain Coal Company on this plan. We look forward to completing the reclamation of the property in 1993, as scheduled.

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

Respectfully,



Dan W. Guy  
President

cc: Bill Malencik - w/plan  
Kathy Welt - w/plan  
Scott Anderson  
File