



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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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.
- 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.



- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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."
- 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.

- 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).
- 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).
- 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."
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Other editorial changes:

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| 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. |
| Page 7-50a | does not exist. |
| Page 7-59 | The water retention basin must be removed from the channel and maintained until bond release and thereafter by the land owner. |
| 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. |

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- 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?
- 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.
- Appendix 7-1 The PAP does not reference any plans to monitor rainfall or flows from the reclaimed area as suggested.
- 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.
- 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.
- Page 7-40 The operator has failed to adequately address drainage on the reclaimed portion of the road.
- 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.

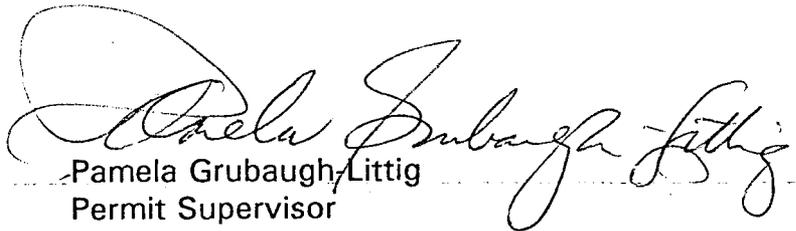
The Division is frustrated with the review of the resubmitted plan and the editorial problems associated with it. I am returning the plans to Mr. Dan Guy, per your request.

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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