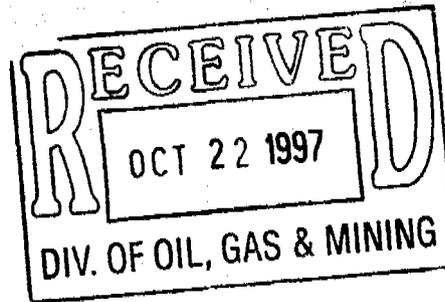


Mountain Coal Company

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



Pamela Grubaugh - Littig
Permit Supervisor
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801



Re: *Request for Extension*
N.O.V. N97-47-2-3
Gordon Creek No. 2/7/8 Mines
ACT/007/016
Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Littig:

Mountain Coal Company is herein requesting an extension for abatement of Parts 1 and 3 of the above referenced N.O.V. from October 23, 1997 to November 7, 1997. This request is made to allow equipment access to properly reconstruct the channel and rill areas in question. The area has just now dried out enough to allow for equipment access with minimal disturbance to the vegetation. The present plan is to move equipment on site on 10/21/97. The extension will allow adequate time for completion of the work.

Part 3 of the N.O.V. originally requested submission of plans for diversions by 10/12/97. This date was later modified to 10/23/97. I discussed these areas with Mr. Dave Darby on 10/06/97 and expressed our desire to "pock-mark" these areas with a trackhoe bucket, as opposed to installing diversion channels. The rilling of these areas was caused by extreme storms, and areas that were "pock-marked" showed little, if any, cutting or rilling. Mr. Darby agreed that this could be done and asked that I send a letter to clarify the change. "Pock-marking" is part of our normal approved reclamation procedure, and no additional plans or designs should need to be submitted. Mountain Coal Company is therefore requesting the items 1 and 4 of Part 3 of the N.O.V. be modified to allow for "pock-marking" of the areas in question, and the abatement date be extended to November 7, 1997 as requested above.

It is our hope this request will meet with your approval. If you have any questions, or need any further information, please let me know.

Respectively,

Dan W. Guy

for

Paige B. Beville