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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
SUITE 310
625 SILVER AVENUE, S.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

In Reply Refer To:

June 5, 1990

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton
Associate Director, Mining
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
355 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Re: Soldier Creek Coal Company ASCA's

Dear Mr. Braxton:

207/007/018
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The purpose of this letter is to notify the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Albuquerque Field Office (AFO), is conducting further programmatic review of the above subject.

On May 15, 1990, AFO participated in a joint, random sample oversight inspection of the Soldier Creek Coal Company's Soldier Canyon Mine. The OSM Mine Site Evaluation Inspection Report (MEIR), which was received by DOGM on May 29, 1990, documents site conditions and inspection findings. As indicated in the MEIR, "the processing/approval of both small area exemptions and alternate sediment control practices employed at the mine will be subject to further programmatic review by OSM/AFO." The MEIR also references the most recent submittal by Soldier Creek Coal Company to DOGM dated May 14, 1990, concerning the alternate sediment control practices being employed at the mine.

In order for AFO to proceed with the above noted programmatic review, we request that DOGM provide all necessary information concerning the ASCA's which will be incorporated into the approved Mining and Reclamation Plan. This information should be provided at the time of DOGM's approval of the May 14, 1990, submittal noted above including any revisions or additional information requested as a result of DOGM's technical review of the submittal.

Mr. Lowell P. Braxton

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OSM/AFO reserves the right to issue a Ten-Day Notice based on review of the information requested and in conjunction with the random sample oversight inspection.

If you have questions, please contact me at (505) 766-1486.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Hagen, Director
Albuquerque Field Office