



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

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Outgoing
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October 24, 1996

Paige Beville, Manager
Environmental, Health, and Safety
ARCO Coal Company
555 17th Street, Suited 2170
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Phase III Bond Release Application, Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine, Mountain Coal Company, ACT/007/017, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Beville:

The Division received the Phase III bond release application for the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine on September 23, 1996. This bond release application did not contain information that is required for the Division to make findings including:

A brief history of mining and reclamation activities indicating when mining operations began and ended when earthwork and topsoil distribution began and ended, and when specific revegetation treatments were applied in accordance with the approved plan, and when if any, additional revegetation treatment or supplements were applied,

Documentation to demonstrate that casing and sealing of wells has occurred in accordance with the requirement of the R645 regulations, or documentation for the transfer of wells, if applicable,

Summarized surface and ground water quality and quantity data to demonstrate that disturbance of the hydrologic balance in the permit area and adjacent areas has been minimized and to demonstrate that the water quality and quantity are suitable for the postmining land use. Demonstrate that water quality criteria are met for water contained in the permanent sedimentation ponds for the postmining land use,



Demonstration that retained roads are designed and built to: control or prevent erosion; control or prevent additional contribution of suspended solids to streamflow or runoff off the permit area; neither cause or contribute to the violation of effluent standards, and that any associated the permanent structures meet the requirements for permanent structures and are maintained according to the approved plan and designs,

Detailed vegetation information including sampling data on productivity and cover, species composition, and sampling methodology in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. The application must contain the minimum sample size using the minimum sample size formulas identified in the Division's Vegetation Information Guidelines. The application must contain vegetation information for the last two years of the responsibility period,

Discussion and documentation that the approved post-mining land uses have been achieved. If grazing is a component of the post-mining land use, but grazing has not been conducted during the liability period, the application should include a discussion of the utility of the reclaimed land for grazing (e.g. forage species composition, palatability and productivity, presence of poisonous or noxious plants, livestock access to forage areas, availability of water, etc.). If wildlife habitat is a component of the post-mining land use, the application should include a discussion of the utility of the reclaimed land as wildlife habitat (e.g. suitability of cover, food, winter range, breeding grounds, water, etc.),

An analysis of observed versus projected subsidence impacts, and a discussion of how any subsidence-caused material damage was prevented or mitigated, and

A final mine map showing the extent of mining.

The Division will process this bond release application when this information has been submitted. The bond release inspection will also be scheduled at that time.

Phase III Bond Release
Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine
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If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

cc: Dan Guy, Blackhawk Engineering
Mary Ann Wright
Daron Haddock
Joe Helfrich
Susan White
Dave Darby
Sharon Falvey
Jess Kelley

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