

0004



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

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

BC: DRH
JCH
Dave
Susan

January 15, 1998

Paige Beville, Manager
Environmental, Health, and Safety
ARCO Coal Company
555 Seventeenth Street, Room 2170
Denver, Colorado 80202

Re: Phase III Bond Release, More Hydrologic Data Required, Mountain Coal Company, Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine, ACT/007/017- BR96A, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Ms. Beville:

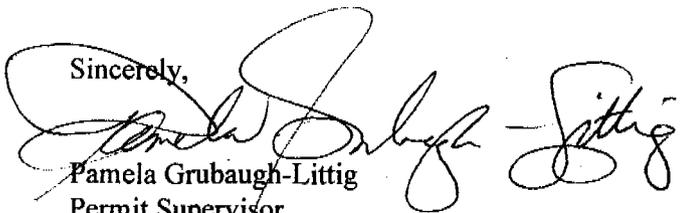
Information for the Phase III bond release at the Gordon Creek #3 and #6 Mine has been reviewed. Vegetation has been established and the supporting documentation associated with vegetation meets the requirements for Phase III bond release. Subsidence, roads and approximate original contour restoration have also been found to be meet the requirements for Phase III bond release.

The finding for R645-301-880.210, that disturbed area runoff does not contaminate receiving streams, cannot be made, however. Stream runoff information was collected over the Phase I and Phase II reclamation period. The monitoring data show that runoff from the reclamation site and stream flow exhibit ephemeral characteristics.

Division records indicate that only one water quality sample was taken from the stream during the last ten years (in 1991). The rest of the time, the site was either dry or inaccessible. This one sample does not present a viable statistical summary for measuring runoff quality for future impacts. Mountain Coal Company must demonstrate that the site complies with R645-301-880-210, i.e. disturbed area runoff does not contaminate receiving streams.

The Division recommends that the site be monitored this spring for runoff and water quality samples be taken. You should make a concerted effort to take samples during snowmelt and precipitation events. If you have any questions, please call me or Dave Darby.

Sincerely,


Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor