

Moab District  
Price River Resource Area  
P. O. Drawer AB  
Price, Utah 84501

3400  
(SL-051279)  
(U-066)

Mr. J. Thomas Paluso  
Chief Engineer  
Soldier Creek Coal Co.  
P.O. Box I  
Price, Utah 84501

AUG 11 1986

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 13 1986

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Paluso:

Your map submitted July 15, 1986 showing minor modifications in the mine plan since the last submittal covering Pump Slope - Third North development dated September 29, 1983 has been reviewed. The major change and purpose for the minor modification request is the expansion of the Third North Fifth East Panel from four to seven entries. Fifth East will provide the main entry development into the coal reserves east of the current approved permit area and the Sunnyside coal seam above. A minor change has occurred when Seventh West Panel was driven with six entries instead of the proposed four entries.

The two changes mentioned are the only changes apparent on the July 15, 1986 update and make no change in the maximum economic recovery (MER) of the coal resource or any effects from mining addressed previously.

The concern BLM raised on December 5, 1983 with regard to the September 29, 1983 Pump Slope Extension proposed east of the Third North Main intersection has not been addressed to date, although the Pump Slope Extension will no longer be a main entry access requiring large supportive barrier pillars. We stress the concern that barrier pillars which are not of consistent width could produce problems which could be avoided by maintaining uniform widths.

The future development of the Pump Slope Extension will be left to future resolution as it is our understanding that there could be some design changes pending there.

Accordingly, approval is granted for the minor modifications of the plan to include expanding Third North Fifth East and Seventh West panel development as shown. This approval will only carry Third North Fifth East Main development east to the east boundary line of the Federal coal lease SL-051279-063188 prior to the approval of the new mine plan Permit Application Package (PAP) submitted for approval to OSM on March 26, 1986.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this approval please contact Allen Vance of my staff at 637-4584.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Leon E. Berggren

Area Manager

Enclosures (2):

- 1-copy of July 15, 1986 submittal letter approved
- 2-copy of July 15, 1986 submittal mine map approved

cc: District Manager, Moab (U-068)  
USO (U-921)  
OSM, Denver  
DOGRI, Utah

AVance:lp:8/5/86 Mag II

