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June 30, 1989

TO: Susan Linner, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist *L K*

RE: Review of Portal Expansion Area, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018-89B, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah.

Summary:

The above referenced plan received on May 22, 1989 has been reviewed for completeness and adequacy for the biology and land use regulations. Deficiencies were found and are discussed in the analysis section.

Analysis:

UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan: General Requirements - LK

(b)(4) On Pages 10-8 and 10-38, the applicant has committed to use the final revegetation seed mix for stabilization of the topsoil stockpile. While this is acceptable, it is recommended that the woody species not be used (i.e. use only the grass and forb species from the list).

(b)(5) The proposed plan does not discuss nor reference revegetation of the riparian habitat that will be affected by installation of the 600-foot culvert. A reference to (and commitment to) the riparian reclamation plan in the approved MRP would be adequate.

The proposed plan does not include plans for interim stabilization of areas not needed for the active operations (i.e. sediment pond embankments, diversions, berms, etc.). This needs to be provided or reference appropriate sections of the approved MRP.

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UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan (continued)

(b)(5)(v) Any pest and/or disease control measures that may be necessary (see page 10-21) must be submitted to and approved by DOGM before they are implemented.

UMC 784.21 Fish and Wildlife Plan

Section 10.2.7 (page 10-16) does not discuss the impacts to critical and/or high priority deer winter range associated with the riparian zone along Soldier Creek. Mitigation for this loss needs to be included in Section 10.2.8.3 (Page 10-17)

Recommendations:

The operator needs to respond to provide an adequate response to these comments before the proposal can be approved.

cc: J. Leatherwood
BT3013/32-33