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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

August 1, 1989

TO: Susan Linner, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist *Lyn K.*

RE: Review of Soldier Creek Coal Company's Response to the April 25, 1989 Mid-Permit Term Review, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah.

Summary:

The Referenced material Received by DOGM on June 23, 1989 has been reviewed for completeness and adequacy in addressing concerns for climatological information, vegetation, revegetation, fish and wildlife information and plans and land use information and plans. With exception of the map identified below, these areas have been adequately addressed and can be considered complete and adequate for approval.

Analysis:

UMC 783.18 Climatological Information - LK

Conflicting climatological data has been corrected.

UMC 783.19 Vegetation Information - LK

Discrepancies in the vegetation report have been resolved.

UMC 783.20 Fish and Wildlife Information - LK

The section discussing raptor protection on powerlines has been revised to include the results of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey of October 9 1981.

UMC 783.22 Land Use Information - LK

Information regarding past mining had been included previously but was incorrectly referenced. The reference has been corrected so that this data is easily located.

Soldier Canyon Mine
ACT/007/018
August 1, 1989
Page 2

UMC 784.13 Reclamation Plan: General Requirements - LK

(b)(5) The operator has stated that a map showing the locations of the various reclamation treatments will be submitted with the new facilities amendment since this same information for the new area can be incorporated on the same map. Since the operator has provided text describing these areas, and has identified that this map will be submitted with the new facilities information this section can be considered adequate for now.

(b)(5)(ii) Seed mixes for final revegetation have been appropriately revised to reflect current technology.

(b)(5)(iii) The MRP has been revised to show the proper sequence for each step of the revegetation process, and that areas to be revegetated will be left in a roughened condition.

(b)(5)(iv) The MRP has been revised to show proper mulch materials will be used.

(b)(5)(vi) Page 5-62 has been revised to resolve conflicting monitoring plans.

Page 5-61 has been revised so that the operator will submit appropriate justification for reducing shrub density standards for approval by DOGM before final reclamation commences.

On page 5-70c, has been revised to properly identify and describe the methods used to estimate vegetation cover.

UMC 784.21 Fish and Wildlife Plan - LK

Page 4-74 has been revised to eliminate conflicting statements.

UMC 783.19 Vegetation Information - LK

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Map to be submitted (as identified under UMC 784.13) be incorporated into the MRP with the new facilities amendment and that this issue be considered complete for the mid-permit term review. With this in mind, the mid-permit term review can be approved for the referenced topics.