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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangertter
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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 22, 1989

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

Dear Mr. Paluso:

Re: Mid-Permit Term Review, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018,
Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has reviewed Soldier Creek Coal Company's (SCCC) June 23, 1989 response to the Mid-Permit Term Review document of April 25, 1989.

Many of the deficiencies enumerated have been adequately addressed, however, there are still deficiencies as outlined in the attached technical review memos. Please note that final bonding and backfilling and grading calculations will be deferred until completion of the new portal facilities.

In order to expeditiously finalize the Mid-Permit Term Review process, please provide your response to the remaining deficiencies by September 22, 1989. If you have any questions, or would like to meet with any of the staff to aid in your response, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan C. Linner".

Susan C. Linner
Reclamation Biologist/
Permit Supervisor

c1
Attachments
cc: B. Team
BT45/289



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August 16, 1989

TO: Sue Linner, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Randy Harden, Reclamation Engineer *RZH*

RE: Mid-Term Permit Review including Surface Facilities
Expansion, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine,
ACT/007/018, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

SUMMARY:

This memo is in review of the mid-permit term information submitted to the Division on June 23, 1989.

ANALYSIS:

The following comments are made in regard to their respective UMC regulations:

UMC 784.18 Relocation or Use of Public Roads - JRH

The operator,s response to previous deficiency comments made in this section are not considered adequate.

The operator is currently operating within 100 feet of a public road and is in accordance with the requirements of this section. Proposed facilities on site will encroach on the road and may involve re-alignment of the public road. Additionally, with facilities on both sides of the public road, the operator will frequently utilize the public road for routine surface operations. This impact on the use of the public road will require that the operator receive concurrence from the county for the modifications and intended use of the road.

Illustration 10.2.3-1 indicates concurrence by Carbon County that the installation of the new culvert in Soldier Creek would be beneficial. However, the operator will need to receive acceptance of the construction and the reclamation of the facilities within the right-of-way for the county road from Carbon County. Division approval of the new surface facilities cannot be made until such time as the county has approved the changes within the right-of-way.

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Soldier Creek must at least commit to obtaining all necessary right-of-way and use permits in conjunction with the construction and operations adjacent to the road. Exhibit 10.2.3-1 is not a right-of-way permit or use permit for construction off facilities along the road but only a consensus that the culvert is a good idea.

UMC 784.19 Underground Development Waste - JRH

The operator has requested that no additional design information regarding the waste rock disposal site be made until the next permit term because they do not intend on utilizing the site through the remainder of this permit term.

The operator's response to this section is not considered adequate. At a minimum the operator must have a location for the temporary storage of such waste material within the permit area. If such a site is designated and approved in conjunction with the mid-term review, and, is of sufficient capacity to satisfy the needs of the operator until the end of this permit term, the division may consider the operator's request to be adequate.

UMC 817.101 Backfilling and Grading: General Requirements - JRH

Additional comments regarding this section will be made upon review of the designs for the new portal facilities. Earthwork and bonding costs estimates for the new portal facilities as well as the entire site shall be made by the Division upon acceptance of the final proposed plans for the new portals.

BT14/11-12
CC: B. Team



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July 31, 1989

TO: Susan Linner, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Mike DeWeese, Reclamation Hydrologist *MMD*

RE: Mid-Permit Term Review, Deficiency Response, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/041, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY:

The operator's response to the Division's mid-permit term review, received June 23, 1989, has been reviewed regarding hydrologic issues. One outstanding comment regarding water monitoring remains before the submittal can be considered technically adequate.

ANALYSIS:

UMC 713.17 Alternative Water Supply Information - MMD

UMC 817.41 Hydrologic Balance: General Requirements - MMD

The operator has identified various sections of the MRP adequately addressing the issues raised in the Division's comment regarding protection of the hydrologic balance. Page 7-7 of the cross reference has been corrected.

UMC 817.47 Hydrologic Balance: Discharge Structures - MMD

UMC 817.49 (c) Hydrologic Balance: Discharge Structures - MMD

The operator has submitted the required design specifications regarding energy dissipators utilized at the sedimentation pond as part of the proposed new facilities amendment. This amendment proposes modifications of the existing sedimentation pond, therefore an as-built drawing of the reconstructed sedimentation pond including details of the energy dissipators will be submitted upon completion of this project.

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UMC 817.52 Hydrologic Balance: Surface and Ground Water Monitoring -
MMD

The operator has clarified the discrepancy concerning the number of wells used in the ground water monitoring program. There presently are two wells monitored for static water levels. A minimum of three monitoring sites are necessary to determine the piezometric plane of the aquifer. Therefore the operator must commit to install a third water monitoring well or conduct other monitoring procedures to provide static water level data at an additional site.

UMC 817.46 (e-u) Hydrologic Balance: Sedimentation Ponds - MMD

UMC 817.49 Hydrologic Balance: Permanent and Temporary Impoundments
- MMD

The Division is currently formulating a policy on impoundments which exempts sewage lagoons from the requirements of the aforementioned regulations. Therefore this comment is no longer applicable and the operator is not required to submit as-built plans of the sewage lagoons.

UMC 817.42 through UMC 817.49 - MMD

The operator has submitted an amendment for new surface facilities at the mine site. The surface diversion system and sediment pond are currently being reviewed for technical adequacy as part of the permitting process. Therefore all comments regarding surface structures should be referred to the aforementioned review documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division recommends the mid-permit term review be denied final approval until such time as the operator commits to additional monitoring of ground water levels.

BT98/55-56



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July 26, 1989

TO: Susan C. Linner, Permit Supervisor

FROM: James Leatherwood, Reclamation Soils Specialist *JL*

Re: Mid-Permit Term Response Review, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Folder No. 2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY

The response to the Division's April 25, 1989 Mid-Permit Term review, received June 23, 1989, has been reviewed. Two minor concerns still exist. Discussiona pertaining to topsoil removal at the Lagoon site must be included within the text of the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). The MRP must also incorporate changes in the proposed topsoil stockpile location at the waste rock disposal site in order for the MRP to be considered technically adequate.

ANALYSIS

UMC 817.22 Topsoil: Removal - JSL

The response pertaining to the salvaging and protection of topsoil from the Lagoon site is acceptable. However, language pertaining to the Lagoon topsoil issue must be incorporated within the text of the MRP.

UMC 817.23 Topsoil: Storage - JSL

In order for the MRP to be considered complete and technically adequate the concerns outlined in the Division's April 25, 1989 review, under this regulation and UMC 784.19, must be thoroughly addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

The concerns outlined above must be reviewed by the operator such that updated revisions and clarifications can be directly inserted into the existing MRP.

cc: H. Sauer
BT51/100



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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.

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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.

BT3013/44-45