007/018 #2

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SC3 SOLDIER CREEK COAL CO.

Telephone (801) 637-6360

P.O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501

February 11, 1991

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1991
DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
355 W. North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

RE: Minor Coal Exploration Permit, Construction of Water Monitoring Well, Soldier Creek Coal Company, ACT/007/018, Carbon County Utah

Dear Daron:

Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, P.O. Box I, Price, Utah 84501, is seeking an exploration permit for the drilling of a monitoring well and access to the well site. SCCC has contracted EarthFax Engineering, Inc. 7324 South 1300 East, Suite 100, Midvale, Utah 84047, (801) 561-1555 to oversee the well construction and gather the necessary data. Zimmerman Well Service has been subcontracted by EarthFax to drill the well. Presently, the road construction has not been contracted out. SCCC has applied for a monitoring well construction permit through the Division of Water Rights and is awaiting their approval.

The Applicant is in the process of preparing a PAP for a waste rock disposal site. In order to satisfy the regulations, a water monitoring well must be constructed to gather additional PHC information. The well site is located approximately 3 miles south of Soldier Canyon Mine and is within SCCC's land ownership. Presently, an existing road provides access to Anderson Reservoir located in the area and just south of the proposed well site. The road accessing the well site will start near the end of the existing road and run along the west side of the reservoir (Drawing D-295). The ancillary road will be constructed along the contours following current, prudent engineering practices. Due to the gently sloping terrain, the side-casted material will be readily available for reclamation of the road to approximate original contour. Earthwork activities will end when the terrain is conducive for vehicular travel. From that point to the well site, the associated disturbance will be vehicular in nature, thereby, minimizing the degree and area of disturbance. The well construction will be done with an air rotary drill rig. By using this type of drilling rig, mud pits are not necessary, thereby, also minimizing the degree and area of disturbance. Strawbales

and/or silt fence will be used to control erosion and reduce overland flow velocities where needed. Drawing D-295 also shows the well site, proposed waste rock-sediment pond sites, proposed permit boundary and the sewage lagoons which are within the presently approved permit area.

The exploration period will be during the month of February 1991. SCCC would like to leave the road in use for access to the site until permanent access can be established through the waste rock site. When this access is available, all exploration related disturbances will be reclaimed. Areas of excessive compaction will be scarified prior to regrading or seeding. Road reclamation will involve scarification of compacted areas to ensure good overburden/soil contact and provide for effective root growth. Cut and fill slopes will be reshaped to approximate original contour with sufficient compaction. After backfilling and grading is completed, the Applicant will broadcast a seed mix recommended by Patrick Collins of Mt. Nebo scientific (see attachment) over the area of disturbance. Straw mulch will then be spread over the seeded area and crimped where soil stabilization may be needed. Access to the site will be controlled by a locked gate located on the access road to Anderson Reservoir.

If further information is needed for the permit, please call me. Your promptness in this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

SOLDIER CREEK COAL COMPANY

Johnny Pappas

Johnny Pappas
Environmental Coordinator

JP/sm

Enclosure

Revegetation seed mix for the Waste Rock areas of the Soldier Canyon Mine.

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | PLS LBS/AC* |
|---|---|---|
| SHRUBS | | |
| Artemisia nova | Black Sagebrush | 0.5 |
| Artemisia tridentata | Big Sagebrush | 0.2 |
| Chrysothamnus nauseosus | Rubber Rabbitbrush | 0.5 |
| Rhus trilobata | Squawbush | 2.0 |
| FORBS | | |
| Achillea millifolium | Yarrow | 0.1 |
| Aster chilensis | Pacific Aster | 0.2 |
| Hedysarum boreale | Northern Sweetvetch | 1.5 |
| Linum lewsii | Lewis Flax | 1.0 |
| Melilotus officinalis | Yellow Sweetclover | 0.5 |
| GRASSES | | |
| Bouteloua gracilis | Blue Grama | 0.4 |
| Elymus smithii | Western Wheatgrass | 3.0 |
| Elymus spicatus | Bluebunch Wheatgrass | 3.0 |
| Elymus trachycaulus | Slender Wheatgrass | 2.0 |
| Stipa hymenoides | Indian Ricegrass | 2.0 |

* Rates based on drill seeding pure live seed (PLS). The rate would be doubled if the seeding method employed is surface broadcasted.