



Soldier Creek Coal Company

SOLDIER CANYON MINE

**SOLDIER CREEK
COAL COMPANY**

EXPLORATION PERMIT AMENDMENT

for the

SOLDIER CANYON MINE

PERMIT ACT/007/018

September, 1991

FILE COPY

CONSULTANTS/ENGINEERS
**HANSEN
ALLEN
& LUCE^{INC}**
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

CONSULTANTS/ENGINEERS
**HANSEN
ALLEN
& LUCE^{INC}**

6771 SOUTH 900 EAST
P.O. BOX 21146
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84121-0146
(801) 566-5599

October 1, 1991

Mr. Daron Haddock
Permit Supervisor, Team B
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Haddock:

Enclosed is a coal exploration permit application for Soldier Creek Coal Company. This application seeks approval to conduct exploration activities to gain data essential to the design and installation of a ventilation shaft and fan at the Soldier Canyon Mine.

It is respectfully requested that the review of this application be expedited as much as possible. Carbon County has prohibited construction of the exploration road from October 18, to October 27, 1991. Since this exploration project needs to be completed before adverse weather becomes an obstacle it is necessary to construct the road as quickly as possible. If approval can be granted in time to construct the road before the October 18 deadline it will greatly increase the chances of successful completion of this project.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance. If there are any questions please contact me at 566-5599, or Dave Spillman at Soldier Creek.

Very truly yours,



Barry J. Barnum

DIVISION OF:
OIL GAS & MINING

OCT 0 1 1991

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R614-201 COAL EXPLORATION

201-100. COAL EXPLORATION WITHIN PERMIT AREA

201-110. DIVISION APPROVAL

This exploration application is a permit amendment as defined by R614-303-220. Division approval is sought for the activities described below.

201-120. through 201-140. REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of this section are addressed in R614-201-200 below.

201-200. MINOR COAL EXPLORATION PERMITS

In order to more safely and effectively conduct coal mining operations Soldier Creek Coal Company intends to install a ventilation shaft and fan at its Soldier Canyon Mine. The total project will be accomplished in two phases. Phase I is exploration of the site to obtain data which will be used to design the shaft and fan facility. Phase II is the actual construction of the shaft and fan facility. This application is for the Phase I activities only. Approval for Phase II activities will be applied for under a separate permit amendment.

201-210. LESS THAN 250 TONS OF COAL REMOVED

No coal will be removed during this exploration project. This project is a Minor Coal Exploration Permit.

201-220. INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED

201-221. NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT

Soldier Creek Coal Company
P.O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501
(801)637-6360

201-222. APPLICANTS REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Spillman, Mine Engineer
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P.O. Box I
Price, Utah 84501
(801)637-6360

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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

201-223. NARRATIVE

The purpose of this exploration project is to determine site characteristics for a proposed ventilation shaft and fan installation at the Soldier Canyon Mine. This project is located within the current permit boundary of Permit ACT/007/018 as shown on Map 201-223a, Exploration Site Location, and Map 201-223b, Fan No.3 Exploration Site.

An access road will be constructed between County Road 53 and the site (see Map 201-223b). This road will be used during the exploration period which is estimated to be less than 45 days. The road will be approximately 550 feet long and will have an average grade of 10.9 percent. The road will be staked prior to construction. A total of 12 to 15 inches of topsoil which will be disturbed by the road construction will be salvaged and stored in Soldier Creek's approved topsoil storage site. The surface of the road will be slightly sloped into the road cut. This will ensure that all runoff from the area disturbed by this project will flow down the road and be controlled. Carbon County has approved intersection of the exploration road with County Road 53 as evidenced by the letter contained in Exhibit 201-223a. The only stipulation concerning the road is that no construction can take place between October 18, 1991, and October 28, 1991. For this reason it is requested that the review of this application be expedited so Soldier Creek Coal Company may construct the exploration road before the October 18 deadline.

The exploration site is approximately 100 feet by 200 feet in size. Exploration activities will consist of auger drilling three or more holes. At least one hole will penetrate to bedrock. The other holes will be shallow (20 feet to 40 feet). Since auger drilling is being used there should be no drilling fluids or mud. This will eliminate the need for mud pits or other similar disturbances. It is anticipated that ground water will not be encountered in any of the drill holes so there will be no discharge.

Since the exploration site is within the permit area it was included in the vegetation survey which was conducted as part of the mine permit. However, a specific vegetation survey was conducted on the area which will be disturbed by the exploration activities. Mr. Bob Thompson conducted this survey. Mr. Thompson has a degree in botany and has over 30 years of experience in botany. Ms. Susan White of the Division is familiar with Mr. Thompson's professional qualifications. A statement of the results of this survey is included as Exhibit 201-223b. The site is in the sagebrush vegetation area and borders on an area of mountain brush/mixed conifer vegetation types. There is no high value vegetation or habitat associated with the disturbance of the exploration site. See Illustration 10.7.1-2 in the Soldier Creek Coal Company permit.

On October 8, 1991, Paul Baker, of the Division inspected the proposed exploration site and examined the location of the Sweet canyon vetch plants. It was determined that the exploration activities described herein would not impact the plants.

An archaeology survey conducted for the mine permit extended up stream from the

mine facility area to the exploration site area. This survey found no cultural or historical resources in the area of the exploration site. The exploration site was also one of two sites specifically surveyed for cultural and historic resources for this project. The results of this survey are reported in Exhibit 201-223c. If any evidence of a cultural or historical resource is found during the exploration activities the exploration project will be interrupted and the Division and the BLM will be notified. See section 3.11 of the Soldier Creek Coal Company permit.

The current land use of the site is for wildlife habitat only. Reclamation will return the site to its original land use. It is anticipated that there will be no disturbance on the site except for the actual drill holes. However, if it is necessary to construct level drill pads or dig mud pits 12 to 15 inches of topsoil on the area to be disturbed will be removed and stockpiled in the approved permanent topsoil storage area. If a pad or pit is to be constructed it will be staked prior to construction. Drill hole cuttings will be replaced in the holes to effectively fill the holes. If the project is to be abandoned the site will be restored to its original contour and condition. Salvaged topsoil will be replaced on all disturbed areas. Any disturbed areas which require the replacement of topsoil will be seeded. The road will be reclaimed by pulling the excavated material back into the road cut to establish approximate original contour. Topsoil salvaged from the road cut will then be replaced and the area will be seeded. Both the site and the road will be seeded with the approved permanent seed mixture for the central mine facility area. The seed mixture list is attached as Exhibit 201-223d. Reclamation costs are calculated in Exhibit 201-223e. The total estimated reclamation cost, including engineering, profit, and contingency is \$4,305.

When Phase I of this project is completed "as built" drawings and a descriptive narrative summarizing the project will be submitted to the Division. The measured amount of topsoil salvaged and stored in the topsoil storage site will be included.

If, as a result of this exploration project, it is decided to proceed with the actual shaft and fan installation (Phase II) a formal permit amendment will be submitted to the Division. In this case the access road will remain in place and will be upgraded to a construction and service road. Upgrading the road will include the construction of a ditch along the inside edge of the road to collect and control runoff. The upgrade of the road and the development of the site will be described in the Phase II permit amendment.

The site selected for the shaft and fan installation is within 100 feet of a public road. In accordance with R614-103-234.200 the opportunity for a public meeting was provided as evidenced by the affidavit of publication contained in Exhibit 103-234a. There was no response to the public notice which resulted in cancellation of the meeting. Since this meeting addressed issues associated with both Phase I and Phase II of this project it meets the requirement of R614-103-234.200 for both Phases.

201-224.

Exploration of the site will begin as soon as approval is received from the Division. It is estimated that Phase I of this project can be accomplished within 45 days of beginning construction of the access road. It is intended to complete Phase I before weather becomes an obstacle. By the end of the 45 day period the decision will be made to proceed or not to proceed with Phase II of this project. If the decision is made to proceed the exploration site will be upgraded in the spring of 1992 after facilities designs have been completed and Division approval has been received. In this case reclamation will take place during final reclamation of the mine facility. If the decision is not to proceed then the exploration site will be reclaimed as described above and according to the procedures described in Sections 5.6.2, 5.6.3, 5.6.6 and 5.6.9 of the current Soldier Creek permit as soon as practicable but in no case later than April 30, 1992.

201-225.

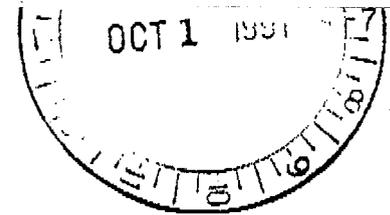
The method of exploration is described in 201-223 above. There will be no coal removed. The auger drill holes will penetrate only to bedrock (20 feet to 40 feet) and the coal seam is about 300 feet below the surface of the site. Adverse impacts will be minimal because of the small scale and time frame of Phase I. A very small area will be affected and the effects will be reclaimed. During drilling care will be taken to remove from the site any trash or contamination that may result from the exploration activities. Trash and contaminants will be disposed of in an approved disposal facility.

There are no streams or drainages through the exploration site. Straw bales will be installed along the lower edges of disturbed areas to treat runoff from the site. Straw bales will also be used to treat run off from the exploration road.

If there is to be no further activity after Phase I the site will be reclaimed as described above and in complete compliance with R614-202. If it is determined that Phase II will proceed following Phase I then there will be minimal reclamation, such as closing the drill holes and filling any mud pits to eliminate hazards. Since Phase II will involve the use and upgrade of the access road and will cause further disturbance of the site these features will not be reclaimed as part of this exploration application. It may be determined that one or more of the drill holes should be used for monitoring. Any holes to be used for monitoring will be cased with perforated PVC or steel casing and closed with a secure cap. These features will facilitate future coal mining and reclamation operations. This is allowed under R614-202-244. Topsoil which will have been salvaged as a result of these exploration activities will remain in Soldier Creek Coal Company's approved permanent topsoil storage area until final reclamation. A permit amendment will be submitted for Phase II which will include a description of final reclamation of the shaft and fan site which will take place as part of final reclamation of the mine facilities.

Exhibit
201-223a

CARBON COUNTY
PRICE, UTAH 84501



9-30-91

Soldier Creek Coal Company
P.O. Box 1
Price, Utah 84501

Attention: Dave Spillman
RE: Access Road for fan.

Dear Mr. Spillman:

Carbon County will grant to Soldier Creek Coal Company permission to construct an access road to the proposed fan site, which will encroach on the Carbon County road right-of-way, if the following conditions are met:

1. Soldier Creek Coal Company shall maintain water drainage on the west side of the road.
2. Traffic warning signs shall be placed on the road by Soldier Creek Coal Company. A stop sign on the exploration road. A merge sign is needed if the road becomes a permanent road. Signs shall be 1- construction ahead. 2- falling rocks. 3- stop sign. Signs shall be installed in accordance with manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
3. Soldier Creek Coal Company shall submit plans to Carbon County for review and approval if the temporary exploration road becomes a permanent road. The plans should show drainage, retaining wall, signing for traffic control, etc. Road plan shall be prepared by a licensed professional engineer.
4. Flagmen will be needed while road construction is taking place.
5. No construction will be done during October 18 to 27, 1991.
6. Widen the road if possible at intersection.
7. If rocks fall on the road during construction, the rocks shall be removed immediately.

Carbon County appreciates the cooperation of Soldier Creek Coal Company on past projects and hope to keep a good relationship for future projects, if any additional information is needed, please give me a call at 637-4700 ext. 231.

Sincerely,



Evan Hansen, P.E.
County Engineer

xc: Emma Kuykendall, Commissioner Chairman
Bill Krompel, Commissioner
John Garr, Commissioner

Exhibit
201-223b

Sept. 29, 1991

David Spillman
Soldier Creek Coal Mining CO.
Box 1
Price, Utah

Dear Mr. Spillman,

On 9/14/91, I surveyed the proposed new Fan site and proposed Exploration Road, at the Soldier Creek Mine site in Soldier Creek canyon, for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive plant species. In the drainage channel directly north of the proposed Fan site, 12 plants of Sweet canyon vetch Hedysarum occidentale var. canone were found scattered in a short section of the channel. (Mostly on the far north side or in the bottom.) No plants were found on or near (200ft.) of the proposed Fan or Exploration road site. See map for location of sensitive plants. The proposed site is clean. However the channel to the north of the site should not be disturbed during the construction of the Fan, to prevent damage to Sweet Canyon Vetch plants.

No presently State listed noxious weeds were observed on or near the proposed site. The site is presently clean of noxious weeds.

Robert M. Thomas

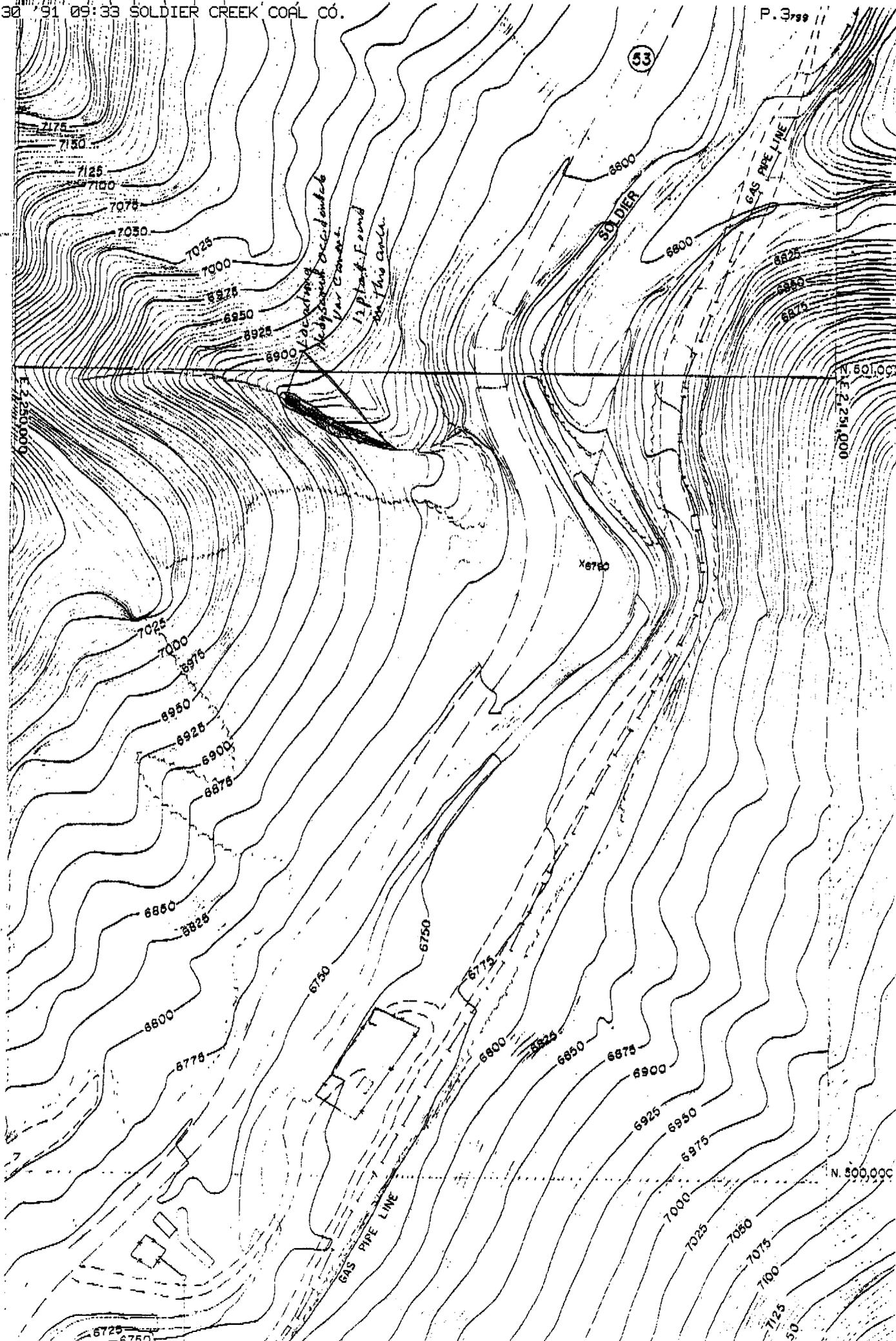


Exhibit
201-223c

NIELSON CONSULTING GROUP

Asa S. Nielson, Principle Investigator
P.O. Box 421
Orem, UT 84059-0421
(801) 224-0607

August 9, 1991

Mr. Johnny Pappas
Engineer
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P.O. Box 1
Price, Utah 84501

Mr. Pappas;

As per your request of August 6, 1991, Nielson Consulting Group (NCG) has examined the proposed drill site in Soldier Creek Canyon, the location of Site 42Cb 527. Soldier Creek Coal Company is to be commended for its quick action to minimize the accidental damage to the site. The steps taken to prevent further impact and to notify a cultural resource specialist are those called for under Federal regulation.

Before discussing Site 42Cb 527 further, NCG examined the files at the Price Area Resource Bureau of Land Management for the two proposed drill locations and access roads in Section 7, T.13S. R.12E (Figure 1). NCG conducted a Class I file search of the area at the BLM office in Price prior to beginning the field work under Utah State Project Authorization Number U-91-NP-412bp. Both proposed access and drill locations have already been examined (Berry 1984) and were found to be devoid of cultural remains. It is the opinion of NCG that additional field inventory is not necessary and that your proposed action will have no effect on the cultural resource data base. You should seek concurrence of the Price Resource Area Bureau of Land Management concerning our opinion.

Site 42Cb 527 is a multi-component historic and prehistoric site located on the east side of Soldier Creek Canyon, near the confluence of Soldier Creek and Pine Canyon Creek (Figure 1). It occupies an area of about 70 x 50 m on the end of a small finger that extends southwest from the canyon wall into Soldier Creek. It is in the SE1/4 SW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 and the SW1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 5, T.13S R.12E (Figure 1).

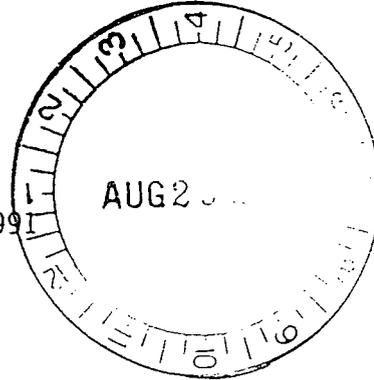
The site consists of an historic component, the remains of an old sawmill, and a prehistoric component. The prehistoric portion of the site is also multi-component, containing a possible Late Archaic occupation and a possible Fremont Culture occupation. The site was originally recorded for the Sunedco's Soldier Canyon Mine permit study conducted in 1985 by Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., (Black 1985).



State of Utah

Division of State History
(Utah State Historical Society)
Department of Community and Economic Development
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182
901 533 5755
FAX 801 364 6436

Norman H. Bangert
Governor
Max J. Evans
Director



August 20, 1991

Johnny Pappas
Engineer
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box 1
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Soldier Creek Coal Mine Report U-91-NP-412bp

In Reply Please Refer to Case No. 1882

Dear Mr. Pappas:

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received the above referenced report on August 14, 1991. The report states that no cultural resources were located during the survey of this project area. We, therefore, concur with your recommendation that no historic properties will be impacted by the project.

This information is provided on request to assist Soldier Creek Coal Company with its Section 106 responsibilities as specified in 36 CFR 800. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact me at (801) 533-7039.

Sincerely,

James L. Bykman
Regulation Assistance Coordinator

JLD:1882 OSM

c: Asa S. Nielson
Principle Investigator
Nielson Consulting Group
1055 South State
Orem, UT 84058

Exhibit
201-223d

Permanent Seed Mixture - Central Mine Facilities Area

	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Rate</u> <u>(lbs/ac)</u>
Mountain big sagebrush (<u>Artemisia tridentata</u> var. <u>faciata</u>)	Hobble Creek	2.0
Bluebunch wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron spicatum</u>)	Secar	2.5
Thickspike wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron dasystachyum</u>)	Critana	2.0
Great Basin wildrye (<u>Elymus cinereus</u>)	Common	3.0
Indiana ricegrass (<u>Oryzopsis hymenoides</u>)	Paloma	2.5
Western wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron smithii</u>)	Rosana	3.0
Alfalfa (<u>Medicago sativa</u>)	Ladak	0.5
Globemallow (<u>Sphaeralcea coccinea</u>)	Common	0.5
Lewis-flax (<u>Linum lewisii</u>)	Common	1.0
Yellow sweetclover (<u>Melilotus officinalis</u>)	Common	0.5
Antelope bitterbrush (<u>Purshia tridentata</u>)	Common	1.0
Fourwing saltbush (<u>Atriplex canescens</u>)	Wytana	2.0
Rubber rabbitbrush (<u>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</u> var. <u>albicaulis</u>)	Common	1.0
Saskatoon serviceberry (<u>Amelanchier alnifolia</u>)	Common	<u>1.0</u>
	TOTAL	22.5

Exhibit
201-223e

REVISED COSTS.

ROAD TOPSOIL:

$$285 \text{ yd}^3 \times \$3.59 / \text{yd} = \underline{\underline{\$1,023}}$$

SITE RECLAMATION:

$$73 \text{ yd}^3 \times \$3.59 / \text{yd} = \underline{\underline{\$262}}$$

REPLACE TOPSOIL ON PADS

ADDITIONAL COSTS.

$$\text{AREA OF ROAD \& PADS} = 8,520 \text{ FT}^2$$

SCARIFYING:

$$\$16.75 \text{ PER } 1000 \text{ FT}^2$$

$$8.52 \times \$16.75 = \$143$$

MULCHING:

$$\$1300 / \text{ACRE}$$

$$\$1300 \times 0.20 \text{ ACRES} = \$260$$

CRIMPING.

$$\$16.75 \text{ PER } 1000 \text{ FT}^2 =$$

$$\$16.75 \times 8.52 = \$143$$

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DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

TOTAL COST SUMMARY :

EXCAVATOR TO RECLAIM ROAD	\$580
TOPSOIL ROAD	1,023
DOZER TO RECLAIM PADS	175
TOPSOIL ROAD PADS	262
SEED	60
SEEDING	590
FILL DRILL HOLES	51
SCARIFY	143
MULCH	260
CRIMP	143
MOBILIZATION	300
TOTAL W/ OVERHEAD & PROFIT	<u>\$ 3,587</u>
10% ENGINEERING	359
10% CONTINGENCY	359
TOTAL COST	<u>\$ 4,305</u>

Exhibit
103-223d

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH)

ss.

County of Carbon,)

I, Dan Stockburger, on oath, say that I am the Publisher of the Sun Advocate, a twice-weekly newspaper of general circulation, published at Price, State and County aforesaid, and that a certain notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in the full issue of such newspaper forTwo...(2).....consecutive issues, and that the first publication was on the

.....3rd.....day of...September....., 1991..

and that the last publication of such notice was in the issue of such newspaper dated the

.....10th.....day of...September....., 1991..

Dan Stockburger

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

.....10th.....day of...September....., 1991..

Linda Thayne
Notary Public

My Commission expires January 10, 1995

Residing at Price, Utah

Publication fee, \$.....30.00.....

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

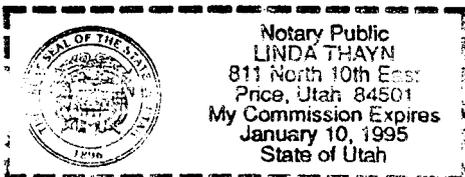
Soldier Creek Coal Company announces that a public meeting, in accordance with Utah Coal Mining Regulation R614-103-234.200 is scheduled for 12:00 pm, September 17, 1991, at the Science and Technology Building of the College of Eastern Utah. This meeting is to address public issues relating to Phase I and Phase II of a ventilation fan installation at the Soldier Creek Coal Company mine near Price, Utah. This installation is to be located approximately 1500 feet north of the Soldier Creek Coal Company surface facility and approximately 100 feet west of County Road 53.

This project is to be accomplished in two phases. Phase I involves exploration of the proposed site to obtain data needed to design the installation. Exploration of the site will require construction of a service road about 550 feet long from County Road 53 to the site. Phase I will be completed during 1991.

Phase II is the actual construction of the fan facility. Phase II will be completed in 1992.

Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact Lowell Braxton in or Daron Haddock at 538-5340 before 3:00 pm, September, 16, 1991. If no meeting requests are received before this time the meeting will be cancelled.

Published in the Sun Advocate September 3 and 10, 1991.



Maps