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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

July 27, 1992

Mr. J. T. Paluso
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P. O. Box 1
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Paluso

Re: Deficiency in Prime Farmland Investigation, Soldier Creek Coal Company,
Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

The Division has completed a review of materials submitted to make a determination of prime farmland at the Soldier Canyon Mine. There appears to be some conflicting information in your Permit Application Package which needs to be corrected. Please review the attached technical memo which discusses the deficiencies. These deficiencies must be corrected before Soldier Creek's Waste Rock Disposal site can receive approval.

If you have any questions please, please call me or Priscilla Burton,
Reclamation Soils Specialist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daron R. Haddock".

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

jbe
Enclosure
cc: P. Burton
PRIMFARM.SC3



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July 23, 1992

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor
FROM: *PB* Priscilla Burton, Soils Reclamation Specialist
RE: Response to Stipulations received 1/27/91. Soldier Creek Coal Co., Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SUMMARY

An update to Appendix 2-B, prime farmland determination letters from the Soil Conservation service were provided for the permit area.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

R645-301-221 Prime Farmland Investigation.

- Stipulation 1. **Prior to approval, letters of prime farmland determination must be included for the central mine facilities locality and other localized areas within the proposed life of mine, including but not limited to the Whitmore Park area, Nine Mile Canyon area, Pine Canyon area, Topsoil Storage Site.**

Proposal:

Page 2-2 of the MRP indicates that a Soil Conservation Service (SCS) prime farmland determination letter is found in Appendix 2-B. Appendix 2-B contains a letter of non-prime farmland for the permit area. The permit area was determined to be non-prime farmland in this letter of 12/6/85. Several other letters are included in the Appendix for the life of mine area ((7/24/90, 7/19/90, 8/21/90, 2/26/91). These letters indicate that there is no prime farmland except in a portion of the refuse disposal site proposed permit area.

Analysis:

The application is in compliance with the stipulation requesting primefarmland information.

A letter of determination for the refuse disposal site was found in Appendix 9-B, entitled "Wetlands."

The presently permitted mine site does not contain any prime farmland. The topsoil storage site was not determined to be prime farmland because it is upstream from the source of irrigation water

(personal communication, Mr. Leland Sasser, SCS).

The Life of Mine area contains prime farmland in the region of the proposed refuse disposal site. The evaluation of this farmland must be rewritten as there is a discrepancy between the location of the farmland in the letter and the accompanying map. Through personal communication with the SCS (1/7/92), the Division is aware that there are important farmlands which exist north of the designated prime farmlands within the Life of Mine boundary. The soil type 53 (Hernandez) is a prime farmland soil where irrigation water is available and developed. The Division requests that a notice is attached to the SCS letter and map sent on February 26, 1991, to correct the discrepancy in location and to include the location of "potential prime farmlands," and other important farmlands on both sides of the County Road in Sections 25 and 36 of T13S, R11E.

A SCS letter written on 8/21/90 which responds to Soldier Creek Coal Co.'s request of 7/19/91, indicates that some soils are not prime farmland, but includes soils in NW1/4 NE1/4 of sec 36 T13S R11E and W2SE4 of Sec 25 T13S R11E which are prime farmland in the Division's opinion and which were confirmed as prime farmland in discussions with the SCS on 1/7/92.

Deficiency:

1. Soldier Creek Coal Co. must request that the SCS attach a notice to the letter and map sent on February 26, 1991 (included in Appendix 2-B of the MRP) for the purpose of correcting the discrepancy in location of the prime farmlands and to include the location of "potential prime farmlands," and other important farmlands on both sides of the County Road in Sections 25 and 36 of T13S, R11E.
2. Soldier Creek Coal Co. must request that the SCS attach a notice to the letter written on 8/21/90 (included in Appendix 2-B of the MRP, which responds to Soldier Creek Coal Co.'s request of 7/19/91) for the purpose of identifying the prime farmland located in Sec 36 T13S R11E and in W2SE4 of Sec 25 T13S R11E, which the Division believes was erroneously included in the non-prime farmland determination.

CONCLUSION:

The two deficiencies written above were not incorporated into the technical deficiency document, due to the timing of the submittal and issuance of the permit renewal. It is recommended that this deficiency is brought to the attention of Soldier Creek Coal Co. as a deficiency which exists with their Mining and Reclamation Plan in regard to the as yet unpermitted Waste Rock Disposal Site and R645-301-221.