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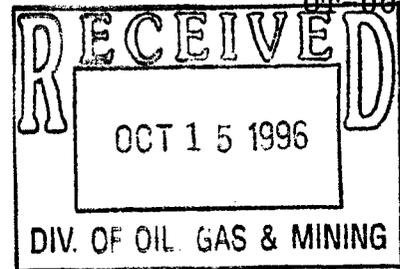
IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-5733

October 11, 1996



*ACT 10071018 #2
Copy Data: Pam*

Mr. Rick Olsen, President
Soldier Creek Coal Company
P O Box 1029
Wellington, UT 84542

Dear Mr. Olsen:

We are preparing a mining plan decision document for the remainder of the Alkali Creek track, Federal coal lease UTU-69635 for the Soldier Canyon Mine(SCM). Prior to submitting the decision document for Secretarial approval, we need to consult with and obtain the concurrence of the US Fish and Wildlife Service(FWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

On page 7-28 of the permit application package (PAP) dated May 1996, it is stated that the proposed mining activities are expected to consume and/or intercept an average of 460 acre-feet of groundwater per year. This is based on historical records for 1985 through 1991, as described in Figure 7.28-20 of the PAP. This Figure also provides number of acre-feet for "Water Added to Coal Production" and "Estimated Evaporation".

In order for us to consult with FWS, we need to know the number of acre-feet of groundwater that SCCC estimates for annual water usage in various mining operations and for evaporative losses during the proposed mining operations in the lease area of SCM.

We are requesting that you provide this information by October 25, 1996, so that we can assist you in an expeditious manner.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 303-844-1489.

Sincerely yours,

Ranvir Singh
Ranvir Singh, P.E.
State Programs Division

cc: Keith Zobell
✓ Pam Grubaugh-Littig, UT DOGM
Greg Reed