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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
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October 18, 1996

Keith Zobell
Utah Fuel Company
P. O. Box 719
Helper, Utah 84526

Re: Renewal Application, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine,
ACT/007/018, Folder #3, Carbon County, Utah

Dear Mr. Zobell:

The Division received your application for renewal for the Soldier Canyon Mine on October 3, 1996. The application contains a number of permit changes, the most significant being the changes to the plan for the proposed waste rock disposal site. Because of the new permitting actions that have been applied for, the Division is finding it quite difficult to process the renewal. While your permit carries with it the right to successive renewal it is the Division's policy to not accept permit changes in conjunction with the renewal. Any permit changes would best be accomplished prior to or after the renewal.

A successive renewal would be based on the following factors according to R645-303-230.

- 1) Compliance with the existing mining and reclamation plan and permit.
- 2) Legal and financial information being current and up to date.
- 3) Violation history and status being brought up to date.
- 4) Ability to clear the Applicant Violator System (AVS).
- 5) Bond being current and escalated for the additional term of the permit.
- 6) Evidence of satisfactory liability Insurance.

Your application, in reality, is two different applications; one being an application for permit change, the other an application for permit renewal. It is further complicated in that it contains information on the Alkali lease application which is still under review and has not been approved as yet. We recognize that it was anticipated that the Alkali lease would be approved prior to the permit renewal becoming due and hope that will still be the case. In an attempt to accommodate your needs the Division will process the applications, however, they will be processed on separate tracks. The Alkali lease application has previously been designated significant revision 96-1 and the review is proceeding.



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It is likely that the renewal application may need to be processed next since there are specific time frames that have to be met. The renewal will be based on your existing approved plan and will not recognize any proposed changes. However, updated information (legal financial, violation history, etc.) will be taken from the new application. Because of the strict time frames associated with public notice for renewal applications, you should immediately proceed with publication as required by R645-300-121. You may want to submit a draft copy to the Division just so it can be checked for adequacy prior to publishing. You should also ensure that a copy of your current plan is filed with the county recorder.

In regard to the proposed permit changes, the Division has assigned them for review and will track them as permit change 96A. Only after they have been reviewed and approved will they be accepted as part of your plan. Any deficiencies in your proposal will need to be corrected prior to approval. The Division is preparing a Technical Analysis of the proposed changes and will forward this to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience during the permitting process. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

blb
cc: M. Wright
P. Grubaugh-Littig
J. Helfrich
R. Davidson
P. Baker
W. Western
S. Falvey
J. Smith

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