



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 9, 1996

TO: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WHW*

RE: TA ICB, Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine, ACT/007/018, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL

This technical analysis concerns the incidental boundary change for the Soldier Canyon Mine submitted to the Division on October 3, 1996. The ICB will allow the Operator to continue mining while the Alkali Tract is being proceeded. With the exception of possible subsidence related effects there will be no surface disturbance associated with the ICB. The areas of concern from an engineering stand point include coal recovery and subsidence.

ANALYSIS

Renewable resources survey.

The Operator did not address this issue. In the approved MRP and in the Alkali Tract proposal the Operator identified grazing and recreational uses as renewable resources in the ICB. In the MRP the Operator has committed to mitigating any subsidence related damage. That commitment would apply to all permitted lands.

Subsidence control plan.

The Operator did not address how subsidence in the ICB would be monitored. Figure 5.25-1 in the MRP shows the area where subsidence will occur. Exhibit 5.21-5 in the ICB submittal shows the location of the mine workings. If the ICB is approved mining would occur outside of the approved subsidence buffer zone. The Operator did not state what type of monitoring program would be installed prior to mining in the ICB.



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The Division has been informed by source other than the PAP that only development mining will occur in the ICB prior to approval of the Alkali Tract Amendment. Subsidence is not expected to occur from development mining. If monitoring station in and around the ICB are no installed prior to mining then there will be not way to fully document subsidence related effects.

COAL RECOVERY

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.59; R645-301-522.

Analysis:

The Operator did not address this section in the PAP. From information outside the PAP the Operator has stated that mining in the ICB will be development mining only. The Division's main concern is that the Operator will conduct mining in a manner that will allow the maximum recovery of the coal in the Alkali Tract.

In a letter dated September 17, 1996, to Mr. Reid Olsen, general manager of Soldier Creek Coal Company, Mr. Mark E. Bailey, area manager for the BLM, stated in a letter to Mr. Reid Olsen, general manager of Soldier Coal Company, that the BLM had approved the revisions to Soldier Creek's resource recovers and protection plan (R2P2). The Division contacted Mr. Barry Grosely of the BLM, by phone on October 16, 1996. Mr. Grosely has investigated the coal recovery program at the mine. He is satisfied that Soldier Creek is attempting to recover as much coal as possible.

Coal recovery at Soldier Creek will be hampered by burn areas and seam splitting. It is difficult to develop a mine plan that will insure maximum economic recovery until the mining conditions are fully known. Those conditions usually are not known until development work take place. During development work the Operator may modify the mining plan due to local mining conditions.

Findings:

The Operator met the minimum regulatory requirements for maximum economic coal recovery.

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