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Blue Blaze Compliance file

William R. Skaggs

P.O. Box 784
Price, Utah 84501
Telephone (801) 472-3786

RECEIVED
NOV 29 1990

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

November 24, 1990

Act 1007/000
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Division of Oil Gas & Mining
3 Triad Center
Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203

Att: Lowell Braxton

Upon receipt of a cessation order dated November 21, 1990, there were accusations that there was mining activity at the Blue Blaze Mine site. We believe this was incorrect due to the following:

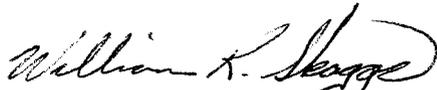
1. The area of concern was an open existing portal left by the Consumers Mine in the 1950's prior to Blue Blaze Coal's leasing this property. This posed a very dangerous condition to the public prior to the action taken.
2. The area in question showed evidence where numerous people were entering this old existing portal. This could have been a great hazard to them.
3. This area was further opened to allow the proper fencing of the area. Fencing these open portals off was recommended by Mary Ann Wright and Mark Mesch who met with us on the site. The meeting was to indicate what had to be accomplished in the area and which areas will be reclaimed in the near future by DOGM. This discussion and field observation indicated several mine portals that the Division would be reclaiming under the abandoned mine act. Also, see enclosed letters from Dianna Nielson of August 2, 1990 indicating what was encountered at this meeting.
4. In the process of completing this task there were no imminent environmental danger to the land, air or water resources on the previously disturbed area in question.
5. The work was done by the direction of the State mine inspector (Ron Parkins) in conjunction with our conversation with Mary Ann Wright.

6. There was no coal in any form extracted or moved within this area.

We don't believe the work should be considered mining activity. The action taken by Blue Blaze Coal Co. only added to the safety for the public and was not an attempt to excavate the property.

Please consider vacating this violation on the bases of this letter and your conversation with Margaret Skaggs.

Thank you for your time and consideration:


William R. Skaggs



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

August 2, 1990

Mr. William R. Skaggs, Vice President
Blue Blaze Coal
P.O. Box 784
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Re: Reclamation at the Consumers Mine Site, AMR/007/025

Thank you for meeting with Mary Ann Wright and Mark Mesch of the Division's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program. I believe that on site meetings such as the July 6, 1990 Consumers meeting are very productive and tend to create an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding. I hope that it was helpful for you to get an overview of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and its reclamation role in Utah.

The critical issue of concern to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program at this time is public safety and hazard mitigation. At the Consumers site, this would involve the closure of open portals and demolition of unstable structures, items my staff discussed with you on site.

Cooperation, between Blue Blaze Coal Co. and the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program, in addressing the safety problems present at the Consumers site has the potential for achieving positive results for Carbon County. I appreciate your willingness to cooperate in this respect, and will have Mark Mesch keep you advised as the planning progresses.

If I can be of any assistance in this matter, please contact me at (801) 538-5340.

Best regards,

Dianne R. Nielson
Director



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 2, 1990

Ms. Emma R. Kuykendall
Carbon County Commissioner
Carbon County
Price, Utah 84501

Dear Ms. Kuykendall:

Re: Reclamation at the Consumers Mine Site, AMR/007/025

Thank you for your letter of concern regarding the possible reclamation of the Consumers Mine site. An on site meeting was held on July 6, 1990 to discuss some of the reclamation issues. Blue Blaze Coal was represented by Roger and Margaret Skaggs, Dennis Lee, and Dennis Bailey. Representing the Division of Oil Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program were Mary Ann Wright, Program Administrator, and Mark Mesch, Program Reclamation Specialist. Discussions at this meeting covered the following issues: 1) the role of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program, 2) that reclamation at this site would not preclude future mining activity, 3) what safety hazards, such as open mine portals and unstable structures, exist on the site, 4) the various levels of reclamation that could be performed at the site, from merely mitigating the safety hazards to total reclamation, and 5) what areas at the Consumers site were critical to the permittee and their reclamation plan.

We feel this meeting was very effective in establishing lines of communication among all parties involved with the Consumers site. The concerns expressed over the notice of reclamation have been reduced and replaced with an attitude of cooperation for the reclamation issues at the Consumers site.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me at (801) 538-5340.

Best regards,

Dianne R. Nielson
Director