



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

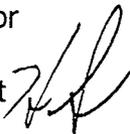
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July 25, 1990

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Henry Sauer, Reclamation Soils Specialist 

RE: Second Completeness Review, Blue Blaze Coal Company, Blue Blaze Mine, PRO/007/020, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

R614-301-221 Prime Farmland Investigation--(HS)

The applicant must conduct a survey of the entire proposed permit area to indicate whether prime farmland exists as given under R614-302-313. The original prime farmland determination (June 13, 1980 letter from T.B. Hutchings, State Soil Scientist) included Section 17, T13S., R8E., SLBM. The proposed permit area encompasses portions of Sections 7, 8, 18 and 20, T13S., R8E., SLBM. Therefore, the applicant must request a prime farmland investigation be conducted by the State Soil Conservationist to determine the occurrence and extent of prime farmland within the proposed permit area.

R614-301-223 Soil Characterization

The Carbon Area Soil Survey is now published and publicly available. The survey encompasses the entire proposed permit area. Therefore, soil descriptions located in the Permit Application Package (PAP) must be correlated to the National Cooperative Soil Survey for the Carbon Area.

Correlation of the disturbed area soils will enable the applicant to derive present and potential productivity estimates for the existing soils (R614-301-222.400).

On page 8-12 the applicant reports that the soils of the area "can support cultivated crops", then states that "soils have severe limitations which restrict their use largely to grazing woodlands or wildlife." Please rectify the above discrepancy and site the literature which was employed to derive these statements.

R614-301-231 General Requirements-(HS)

The soil resources information with regard to suitable soil available for final reclamation is incomplete, contradicting, and must be revised. The following is a listing of the inadequacies and contradictions.

1. Table 8-3, Soil Chemical and Physical Properties is inadequate for the following reasons:
 - (a) Pit #3, Sample Increment: 45-75 cm. The percent sand, silt and clay fractions add up to 118.8 percent.
 - (b) Pit #4 and Pit #5, Sample Increment: 15-30 cm are exactly the same for the reported parameters and the sand, silt and clay fractions add up to 127.4 percent.
 - (c) Pit #4, Sample Increment: 15-30 cm is not accompanied by a laboratory (Commercial Testing and Engineering Company) data sheet.
2. Plate 8-1 must depict the topsoil stockpiles, the alluvial deposition area behind the waste rock embankment, and the entire Area #7 (Plate 8-2) within the disturbed area.
3. Areas #1-7, depicted on Plate 8-2 indicated topsoil stripping depths and areal extent. The applicant must first collect and analyze soil samples to the planned excavation depths (i.e., sampling depths: 30 cm increments, laboratory analyses: The Division's Guidelines for Management of Topsoil and Overburden, Table 1, and include hot water extractable Selenium and Boron). Additionally estimates of topsoil salvage area are incorrect. The Division estimates that approximately 90,345 ft² of surface area will be disturbed (Plate 8-2) during soil salvage operations. The applicant estimates that 167,815 ft² of surface area will be disturbed. Please describe how this area estimate was attained and revise topsoil mass balance calculations in accordance with new finding.
4. According to the "Explanation", Plate 8-2, the areas not stippled or shaded will be "topsoiled and revegetated." Accordingly, the entire area depicted by Plate 8-2 would have to be topsoiled and revegetated. Please revise.

5. Areas 1-7 (Plate 8-2) depict areas where soil will be separately removed and stockpiled. The applicant must substantiate the lack of soil removal in areas where disturbance is planned (Plate 8-1) but have not been included on Plate 8-2 for soil removal.

R614-301-521.140 Mine Maps and Permit Area Maps-(HS)

521.142 The applicant must provide adequate physiochemical analyses (constituents outlined in the Division's Guidelines for Management of Topsoil and Overburden, Table 6) of coal waste or excess spoil to be disposed of. Additionally, disposal techniques must be described and location of said disposal depicted on an appropriate plate. The applicant must also provide volume estimates of the material to be disposed of and the volume and source of cover material required.

R601-301-521-160 Maps and Cross Sections of Proposed Features for the Proposed Permit Area

Provide map(s) identifying all existing areas of spoil, non-coal waste, coal development waste, areas of predisturbance and areas to be retopsoiled and revegetated.

R614-301-731.300 Acid- and Toxic-Forming Materials-(HS)

Provide a description of measures employed to insure that all acid-forming and toxic-forming materials are identified and disposed of to prevent water quality degradation and maintain revegetation potential.

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