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United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

116 JAN 1980

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Mr. Ron Daniels
Coordinator of Mined Land Development
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Dear Ron:

This office has reviewed the operating plan submitted for the Banning Siding Loadout by the Soldier Creek Coal Company. The plan was submitted in correspondence from Mr. Suchoski, of your staff, dated November 7, 1979. At this time we find that there is insufficient information to perform an analysis.

Before the analysis can be completed, this office needs a map of the loadout area. The map of the loadout area should show: 1) the boundaries of the permit area; 2) buildings and facilities on and near the site; 3) the location of all electric transmission line, pipelines, public roads and other man-made features within 100 feet of the loadout area; and 4) surface water drainages in the area. These maps may be compiled into one or two exhibits for convenience. A scale on the order of 1:24000 will be sufficient.

Much of the operating plan is at a conceptual stage and lacks sufficient detail. For example, the proposal states that when the loadout area is no longer in use, revegetation will be initiated. Also two areas are planned to be reseeded in the fall of 1979. Detailed information is needed with respect as to the species to be used, the rate of application and the method of application for the seed mixture. This information should be submitted to and coordinated with both the Bureau of Land Management and this office. The location and boundaries of any proposed vegetation reference areas should be noted.

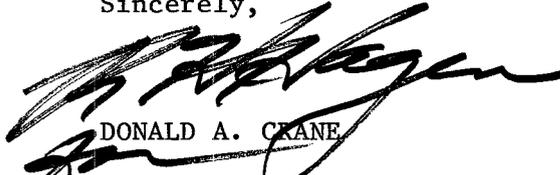
A high water table for the area is referred to in the discussion of the sediment control plan. Because of the high water table, the effects of the loadout on the ground water system may be substantial. The Operating Plan refers to a water monitoring plan to be written by Vaughn Hansen Associates for both the mine and the loadout areas. We will need this plan so that we can evaluate the water monitoring plan.

Mr. Ron Daniels

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A copy of this letter is enclosed for transmittal to the applicant by your office. If you have any questions with regard to this review, please contact John Nadolski of my staff (303-837-3773).

Sincerely,



DONALD A. CRANE

cc: Leon Berggren, Area Manager Price River Resource Area, BLM, Price, UT