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STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Oil, Gas & Mining

ACR/007/023  
Scott M. Matheson, Governor  
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director  
Cleon B. Feight, Division Director

4241 State Office Building • Salt Lake City, UT 84114 • 801-533-5771

February 23, 1982

Mr. Scott Nordness  
Soldier Creek Coal Company  
P. O. Box I  
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Snow-Waste Removal and  
Disposal Recommendations for  
Utah Coal Operations

Dear Mr. Nordness:

Substantial snowfall accumulations during the past winter months have presented snow removal problems and hindered operational procedures at several coal mines within the State. This problem is predicated due to the lack of available on-site storage space necessary for disposal of the snow and the associated waste materials generated during snow removal operations.

The Division has requested remedial plans to provide adequate disposal and treatment of this excessive snow-waste material and is reviewing each plan on a temporary site-specific emergency basis.

In an effort to preclude or mitigate the possibility of future "emergency" snow removal problems, the Division is seeking the coal operators' assistance and cooperation in evaluating their present snow-waste removal and disposal methods to determine whether each operator's current procedures are adequate to ensure negligible impact to the hydrologic regime within and/or adjacent to the mining operation.

The present extent of the rules and regulations which pertain to the protection of the hydrologic balance do not provide a specific section which directly addresses those problems which occur as a result of excessive snowfall accumulation.

However, there are performance standards which do address this problem in an indirect way; specifically UMC 817.41, .43, .45 and .46.