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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 16, 1996

Paige Beville, Manager
Environmental, Health and Safety
ARCO Coal Company
555 17th Street, Suite 2170
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Phase III Bond Release Review, Huntington #4 Mine, Mountain Coal Company, ACT/015/004 - 96A, Folder #2, Emery County, Utah

Dear Ms. Beville:

The Division received the Phase III bond release application for the Huntington #4 Mine on February 20, 1996 and this bond release inspection was conducted on June 27, 1996 in conjunction with the Office of Surface Mining. The technical staff reviewed the application and in conjunction with the inspection the following items have been identified as deficiencies and must be addressed prior to release:

R645-301-750

The bond release application did not address whether surface or subsurface impacts are occurring or whether there is a probability of future occurrence. Therefore, to adequately address this, the surface and ground water quantity and quality should be summarized to demonstrate that disturbance to the hydrologic balance in the permit area and adjacent areas has been minimized and to demonstrate that the water quality and quantity are suitable for the postmining land use. This includes surface water sites upstream and downstream of the disturbed area as well as the Little Bear Spring.

The Little Bear Spring (monitored as 4-1-W) was monitored as part of the requirement for the Huntington #4 Mine permit. The premining (if it exists), operational, and postmining water quality and quantity for Little Bear Spring should be assessed to determine whether changes in water quantity and quality have occurred throughout the mining and reclamation period.



Phase III Bond Release
Huntington #4 Mine
Page 2

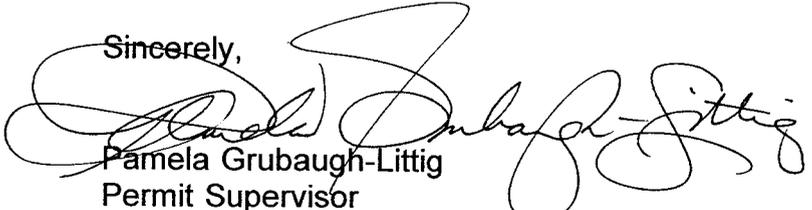
- R645-301-356 The application must contain the minimum sample size using the minimum sample size formula as identified in the Division's Vegetation Information Guidelines. The minimum sample sized must be met prior to approval of the bond release.
- R645-301-357 The application must contain vegetation information for the last two years of the responsibility period.
- R645-301-880.330 The production data does not meet the reclamation requirements of the permit. The permit, however, may be changed to meet the requirements of the Act.
The species diversity does not meet the reclamation requirements of the permit. The permit may be changed to meet the requirement of the Act.

During the inspection, it was noted that vegetation on the reclaimed sediment pond area was sparse. This area was also discussed in a letter to the Division from the Manti-La Sal National Forest, dated July 17, 1996 (attached).

Subsidence mitigation and highwall elimination have been found to be adequately addressed.

I have enclosed the staff memos for your information. If you have any questions about any of the outstanding issues, please call me or the Division staff.

Sincerely,


Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Dennis Winterringer, OSM, WRCC
Jeff DeFreest, Manti-La Sal National Forest
Mary Ann Wright
Daron Haddock (w/o enc)
Joe Helfrich (w/o enc)
Sharon Falvey (w/o enc)
Jess Kelley (w/o enc)
Susan White (w/o enc)