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PR015/022



Soldier Creek Coal Co. HIDDEN VALLEY MINE

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May 24, 1979



Mr. Cleon B. Feight
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

SUBJECT: Access Road - Soldier Creek Coal Company
Hidden Valley Mine

Dear Mr. Feight

As you are aware, Soldier Creek Coal Company is presently developing a new underground coal mine. The new mine will be named Hidden Valley, and is located approximately seven (7) miles south of the town of Emery. The mine is scheduled to be in operation by June, 1981. Maximum production of 500,000 tons per year will be achieved by 1982.

The total mining property consists of 960 acres, which are located in Sections 17 and 18, Township 23 South, Range 6 East. Refer to Figure 1 for the exact location. There are no government coal leases involved in this mining operation. Surface rights are owned in full by Soldier Creek Coal Company.

The Utah State Legislature, during the 1979 session, approved funds for the construction of an access road from U-10 to the mine site area. This type of development is made possible by the 1975 Resource Development Act, which allows for the construction of this type of road.

Sevier County will be engineering and constructing this road. Presently, a contract between Sevier County, Emery County, the Utah Department of Transportation, and Soldier Creek Coal Company is being finalized. This agreement should be completed by July. Engineering on this access road has already been started by Horrocks Engineers of American Fork, Utah. They are acting as consultants for Sevier County. Upon its completion, this road will be a multiple use county road. Final right-of-way approval from the Bureau of Land Management is expected in June of this year. Construction could possibly begin in August.

To provide access to the mine portal area, a road approximately 3,000 feet will have to be constructed by Soldier Creek Coal Company, refer to Figure 2. In order to minimize the impact on the environment, we would like to construct this portion of the road in conjunction with the county road. This would eliminate the necessity of two separate contractors moving onto the job site. Unnecessary equipment and their effects could be prevented.

Approval of this short portion of road by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining would be prior to having an approved Office of Surface Mining Permit. The requirements for obtaining this permit are now being compiled. The application should be submitted to your agency for approval in October of 1979.

Design of this mine portal access road has already begun. This road, along with the county road, will be paved to prevent excessive erosion. All OSM requirements will be followed during design and construction. The preliminary alignment show in Figure 2 is the only reasonable access to the portal area. The majority of the road would cut through sandstone formations, thus preventing construction erosion problems. Any possible erosion problems could be collected in a sediment pond located at the bottom of the road construction area.

Your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

HIDDEN VALLEY MINE



J. T. Paluso
Project Engineer

JTP:jm
Enclosures