

September 10, 1979

Memo to Coal File:

RE: Hidden Valley Mine
Soldier Creek Coal Company
Emery County, Utah
PRO/015/022

On July 13, 1979, Jim Smith and Mary Ann Wright visited this proposed mine site with Tom Paluso and Dave Spillman of the company.

The area of the surface facilities consists of very sparse pinyon-juniper with an understory of snakeweed, sage, Lepidum, Gila, *Eriogonum* Atriplex, Astragalus, ricegrass and some Asters (It is planned that approximately 10 - 12 acres will be disturbed in this upper area).

Greasewood and rabbitbrush were found in the adjacent canyon. This canyon will contain the road to the portal areas on a pad below. A crusher will be located on the lower pad and a conveyor will carry the coal to the upper pad to a loadout facility. Approximately 5 acres will be disturbed on the lower pad area.

Mr. Paluso noted that two registered archeological sites exist near the road to the proposed waste dump area. This dump would constitute a side hill dump against the mancos shale.

Some concerns were expressed by the Division for the possibility of raptors nesting along the cliff above the proposed road which will connect the upper and lower pads.

Soils in the upper area where the surface facilities will be located are very shallow sandy soils overlying sandstone bedrock which is exposed over much of the surface. The lower canyon area adjacent to Ivie Creek, where the portals will be located, has a deeper profile consisting primarily of colluvial material which has accumulated through erosional processes.

MARY ANN WRIGHT *MAW*
RECLAMATION BIOLOGIST

AND

JAMES W. SMITH, JR. *JWS*
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

Note: For accounting statistics see P.G.&E. (Eureka Energy) Sage Point-Dugout Canyon Mine memo of August 7, 1979.

MAW/JWS:te