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M E M O R A N D U M
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TO: Ronald W. Daniels, Coordinator of Mined Land Development

FROM: K. Michael Thompson, Engineering Geologist

SUBJECT: Soldier Creek Coal Company
Proposed Hidden Valley Mine
Emery County, Utah
ACT/015/022

DATE: February 4, 1980

The staff has reviewed the Mining and Reclamation Plan and amendments submitted by Soldier Creek Coal Company for the proposed Hidden Valley Mine. The staff feels that certain items are either unclear or deficient; however, we feel that tentative approval may be issued with stipulations given so that these items are answered prior to development.

Items in need of clarification or deficient items are as follows:

A. Mine Plan

1. An amendment is needed stating which seam(s) will be mined and how mining development will progress, along with proposed time frames.

B. Subsidence Control and Monitoring Plan

1. Clarification is needed on why the estimate for the angle of draw for subsidence of 25 degrees from the vertical was used in determining the subsidence buffer zone for Ivie Creek.

2. No monitoring points are indicated within the area to be subsided. A narrative is required describing the proposed subsidence control and monitoring plan, as well as the location of the monitoring points within the mine plan area.

C. Sediment Pond Design

1. Details concerning the decant structures, seepage collars, oil skimmers, trash racks, keyway cuts for embankments, etc. have not yet been submitted. This information is required.

D. Refuse Disposal Plan Topsoil Protection

1. Pre-mining and post-mining profiles of the refuse disposal areas should be submitted.

2. The following applies not only to the refuse disposal area, but also to all of the disturbed areas. Unless it is demonstrated by the applicant that alternative topsoil and surficial material is available; the borrow area is included in the permit application; and insufficient topsoil and unconsolidated surface material is available on-site; the material must be removed, segregated, stockpiled and protected. Using the material for fill, or berms, etc. at the discretion of the operator can not be permitted. However, if it is demonstrated by the operator that the amount of topsoil and unconsolidated surficial material necessary for reclamation is stockpiled as required, the excess unconsolidated surficial material may possibly be utilized as proposed.

E. The following are specific comments to the December 21, 1979 amendment:

1. Page 4 - Item 7.A. The reply does not adequately answer the question. More specific information regarding the amount and depth of material to be removed is needed.

2. Page 4 - Item 7.B. The reply lacks detail of the proposed deposition and stabilization of the stockpiles.

3. Pages 7 to 9 - Item 7.F. The reply does not adequately demonstrate the amount of surficial material present (or not present) and does not demonstrate the revegetation potential (or lack thereof) of the surficial material. Hidden Valley can not "reserve the right" to use the topsoil

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and surficial material for any purpose which they deem appropriate. Likewise, the responsibility for determining which soils will be stockpiled and which soils will not does not lie with Hidden Valley. These are Division decisions and responsibilities based upon plans and data submitted by Hidden Valley, which have not been provided to date. Will there be a stockpile of surficial material in the refuse disposal area which will exist for the life of the operation? What does Hidden Valley consider to be temporary? Will Hidden Valley implement any drainage and erosion control procedures for the stockpiles other than vegetation, or while the vegetation is becoming established? Using the topsoil and surficial material as fill material or for other purposes is not acceptable unless Hidden Valley can demonstrate with technical data and laboratory analyses that the proposed use(s) will not result in the loss or degradation of this material as a revegetation medium, and specific plans for its use, protection, and recoverability are submitted, along with specific steps to be taken to meet the reclamation requirements upon termination of the operation. Soil analysis results, as well as data regarding the amount of topsoil and surficial material available is needed.

KMT/te