



CONSULTANTS GROUP

GEOLOGY ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENT HYDROLOGY

January 18, 1994

Ms. Susan White
 Reclamation Specialist
 Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
 3 Triad Center, Suite 350
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84180

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DIVISION OF
 OIL, GAS & MINING

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ALPAM

SUBJECT: Hidden Valley Coal Company, Permit No. ACT/015/007

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Dear Ms. White,

JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc., as Hidden Valley Coal Company's representative, has prepared this letter to address comments contained in the Division inspection report received by CalMat on January 3, 1994. The comments were made under "12. Backfilling and Regrading" and were in regard to vehicle access on the upper roadway. You stipulated therein that "The vehicle access should be eliminated by a fence or other barrier immediately and in fall 1994 the two tracks should be ripped and reseeded."

JBR visited the Hidden Valley site on January 17, 1994 to implement measures in response to the first part of the stipulation. At that time, JBR installed 16 metal fence posts spaced across the 65-foot roadway width. To the south, these posts tie in with the earthen berm across the former topsoil storage area. The northernmost post is located in the roadside borrow ditch, which serves as the disturbed area boundary. The purpose of these posts is to prevent vehicles from entering the area of concern (the "two track"). As you know, approximately 270 feet down from that location, travel is again blocked by an earthen berm/water bar and additional fence posts. It is still possible, should someone be determined to enter the "two track", to travel north from the paved road, around the fence posts and back on to the "two track". However, it would serve no purpose for someone to do so; in effect, the posting should eliminate vehicle access. As such, Hidden Valley has met the terms of its permit regarding access, and has also met the first part of your stipulation contained in the inspection report.

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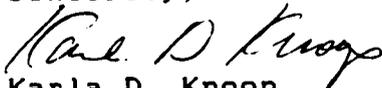
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The second part of the stipulation, in regard to ripping and reseeding the area in the upcoming fall season, is addressed as follows. As you are aware, Hidden Valley Coal Company is concerned about restarting the bond clock at the site; whether or not reseeding of the "two track" would result in setting back the bond clock has not been made clear. It is hoped that the Division will soon formalize guidance on this issue. Additionally, the prevalence of halogeton in the vicinity of the "two track" would be likely to increase if the area is redisturbed through ripping or other surface roughening, perhaps negating any potential benefit of reseeding.

Since any ripping and reseeding that might be required would not take place until October or November, JBR proposes to meanwhile monitor the effect of the closure on the "two track". We expect some natural colonization of vegetation on the "two track" if favorable environmental conditions prevail during the interim period. We would propose that, based upon monthly monitoring and a joint Division-JBR inspection in September, a decision on whether to revegetate the "two track" or to allow natural colonization to proceed could be reached. Hidden Valley Coal Company will also request that any such repairs that are necessary as a result of public use on a closed area be considered as a repair effort and not as a reseeding effort.

Sincerely,



Karla D. Knoop
Hydrologist, JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Copy: Lee Edmonson, CalMat