

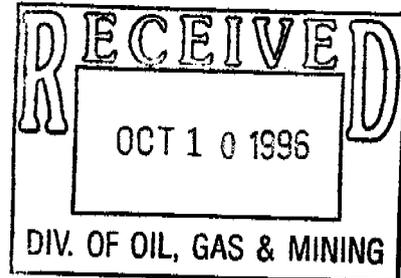
Consolidation Coal Company
Western/Non Mining Operations
Post Office Box 566
Sesser, Illinois 62884

September 27, 1996

Mr. James Carter, Director
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RE: Hidden Valley Mine
Permit ACT/015/007 #2

Original



Dear Mr. Carter:

Copy Susan, J. Barton

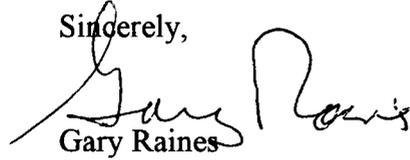
Based on the review of vegetation studies conducted this past summer at the Hidden Valley Mine, we feel it is advisable to meet with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to discuss augmentation of the disturbed 6.7 acre permit site in the Spring of 1997.

This past June, Consolidation Coal Company contracted with JBR Consultants to quantitatively monitor the success of revegetation of the disturbed area with respect to species cover and composition. In addition, the vegetation reference area was sampled to determine revegetation success standards. A separate vegetation study was conducted in June by Ms. Susan White of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Ms. White performed a similar study to ascertain a trend in the overall revegetation for the site with respect to the reference area. Both studies came to the same conclusion that the vegetation on the reclamation site is inadequate and that the trend shows no convergence between the disturbed site and the reference area.

Consolidation Coal acknowledges the fact that augmentation is necessary to revegetate this site to acceptable standards for bond release. We also note that the present reclamation is not conducive to meeting sediment erosion and vegetation standards. We therefore, request to meet with the Division the first week of November (5th thru 8th) to discuss possible alternatives to the present reclamation plan which might enhance vegetational growth at this site. In addition, we discussed the possibility of Ms White helping us contact a few individuals in and outside of various regulatory agencies who she feels might provide us with the experience and knowledge to succeed in revegetating Hidden Valley. *

If our request to meet with the Division during the first week of November is acceptable, please contact Mr. Tim Kirschbaum at (618)625-6847 or me at (618)625-6828. We look forward to meeting with the Division concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Raines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "R".

Gary Raines
Manager - Reclamation
Western/Non Mining Operations

GR:TDK
d:\wpdocs\hvalley\veg-meet.doc

cc: S. Behling