



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Office of the District Mining Supervisor  
Conservation Division  
2040 Administration Building  
1745 West 1700 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
U-5287

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Jim

June 22, 1981

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, OSM, Denver

From: District Mining Supervisor, USGS-CO,  
Salt Lake City

Subject: Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Mine,  
Emery County, Utah, Mining and Reclamation  
Plan, Utah State Permit Application

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DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

The subject plan consisting of 10 volumes submitted in compliance with the permanent program of OSM was received in this office on March 30, 1981. The material has been reviewed for completeness and technical adequacy pursuant to the cooperative agreement between our offices and for compliance with Federal Regulations 30 CFR 211.10 (c) dated May 17, 1976, as amended August 22, 1978. The following are our comments:

1. The subject submittal has been assembled for a Utah State permit application using the States guidelines for organizational format and content. The submittal did not directly address the 30 CFR 211.10 (c) nor cross-reference the information and data that would be repetitive in both formats. We would like the submittal to provide a cross-reference index that designates the sections and pages or maps which contain the 30 CFR 211.10 (c) requirements. The format of this cross-reference index should follow the guidelines sent sometime in April 1981 to the operating companies by John Hardaway of OSM. A six-page outline that we are presently using to review mine plan submittals will be attached to Consolidation's copy of this letter.

2. This permit application includes coal lands contiguous to the present operating Emery Deep Mine. The area encompasses all of Federal lease U-5287. Federal regulations 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(7)(iii) requires all plan maps (including geologic maps) to show Federal lease boundaries and numbers. Federal lease U-5287 has not been shown on the plan maps and the narrative does not specifically address the involvement of this lease in the permit area as required by the 30 CFR 211.10 (c) regulations.

3. Section 3.3.3.1 in chapter 3, volume I indicates plans have been developed to maximize coal extraction from the I zone and A seams. Information and data included in the subject application and the General Mining Order No. 1 (GMO-1) submittal indicates the existence of considerable quantities of other coals that are distributed geologically in a manner that would allow

mining of these resources. Coal to be mined from Federal lease U-5287 under Consol's current plan is less than 10 percent of the in place coal calculated for GHO-1. Parameters used for multiple seam mine planning in the subject submittal vary considerably from parameters established for guidelines for mining of coal seams in the Blackhawk Formation in Carbon and Mery Counties. The coal seams to be mined in the area chosen for the subject application are in a different formation (Ferron Sandstone) and the extraction of these reserves are just beginning. The USGS-CD, Salt Lake City suggests that we have further discussions with mine management relative to mining on Federal leases and/or logical mining units (this application). We cannot agree to 10 percent recovery of a Federal coal reserve in a mine plan.

The following is our preliminary assessment of the mining potential on Federal lease U-5287:

~~K-Seam~~—Approximately 29 percent of the lease area contains coal from 4 to 8 feet in thickness and can be reached by developing through approximately 35 feet of interburden material (from top of 1 Zone) from the 2 West Entries. The coal is high in sulfur and should be washed.

~~J-Seam~~—Most of this seam is less than 4 feet thick in the Federal lease area.

I-Zone

UIO—Upper I one—Approximately 57 percent of lease area has a coal seam thickness of 4 feet to almost 7 feet.

LII—Approximately 56 percent of the lease area has a coal seam thickness ranging from 4 feet to 12 feet and is actually part of the UIO in the lease area.

LII5—Approximately 46 percent of lease area has a coal seam thickness of 10 to 14 feet. This is the part of the I Zone presently being mined. In the southeastern part of the Federal lease the three parts of the I Zone are together. In a northwest direction the lower part (LII5) splits off and is separated from the upper parts (UIO & LII) by about 12 feet within approximately 1/4 mile. Another 1/4 mile they are separated by more than 50 feet.

~~G-Seam~~—This is 40 to 70 feet below the lower part of the I Zone and is over 6 feet in thickness over the entire lease area. Sulfur runs about 1.6 percent and would probably need washing.

~~D-Seam~~—This seam is 20 to 40 feet below the G-Seam and is generally less than 4 feet in thickness in the Federal lease area. This seam is separated from the C-Seam by a rock parting 2 feet or less in thickness.

~~C-Seam~~—This seam is about 6 to 8 feet in thickness over the entire Federal lease area. The sulfur is 0.9 and the ash is approximately 20 percent. Needs a washing plant.

~~A-Seam~~—Approximately 30 percent of the Federal lease area contains this seam with a thickness from 4 feet to over 8 feet. It is isolated in the northwest part and is not planned for mining under this permit.

It is our policy to maximize the recovery of all of the coal in the lease area in harmony with the current market requirements. Mining under the current plan must consider extraction of the remaining coal in the lease.

4. The areal extent of mining of each minable seam should be delineated and show a planned mine layout as required by 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(6)(x) and 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(7)(v).

5. The submittee should give the estimated recoverable reserves and the quality of each seam for the Federal lease U-5287 as required by 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(6)(i).

6. Federal regulation 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(6)(vii) requires the method of operation and measures by which the operator plan to comply with 30 CFR 211.4 and 211.40 and any special terms and conditions of the lease permit or license. This can be by narrative statement including only those items related to resource recovery.

7. The operator must submit the Roof Control and Ventilation System and Methane and Dust Control Plans, most recently approved by Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) including the approved mine maps submitted as part of these plans. Regulations 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(7)(v) requires a planned mine layout which must conform with the MSHA approved plans.

8. Federal regulation 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(6)(viii) requires the anticipated start and termination dates of each phase of the mining operation and the number of acres of land that has a potential of being affected by the mining.

9. Federal regulation 30 CFR 211.10 (c)(6)(x) requires sufficient data to substantiate the recovery factor of the resource including overburden isopachs.

Jackson W. Moffitt

cc: Denver  
 Trippe  
 Skinner  
 Utah State OGC ✓  
 James W. Smith  
 Consolidation Coal Co.  
 McKean (2 copies)