

OLENE S. WALKER  
*Governor*

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
*Lieutenant Governor*

March 24, 2004

Gary Roeder, Area Resource Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Price Field Office  
350 North 400 East  
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Installation of Dust Controls at the 4<sup>th</sup> East Portal, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/0015, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Roeder,

The Division of Oil Gas and Mining has required Consol Energy to install dust controls at the 4<sup>th</sup> East Portal of the Emery Mine to eliminate fugitive coal fine dust accumulations on the adjacent desert rangeland. The success of these dust controls is to be determined by visual evaluation of the soils downwind and east of the permit area. At present there is no stockpile of coal at the 4<sup>th</sup> East Portal and Consol Energy is in temporary cessation, but plans are being laid to begin production in the near future. Prior to the initiation of that activity, Consol Energy and the Division would like to ask for your help in establishing the baseline (existing) conditions of the soil surface east of the permit area.

Consol Energy and the Division would like a non-biased third party to establish three transects running east from the County Road (immediately opposite the 0.5 acre road relocation area) to approximately 150 feet east of the County Road. Three survey locations would be established along each transect at 50, 100 and 150 feet east of the County Road. These locations would be marked and evaluated for percent area of the soil surface covered with coal fines according to the techniques described in the Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils.<sup>1</sup> Re-evaluation of the survey sites will be performed monthly by mine personnel and the Division staff, who will be present during the baseline survey to observe and learn the visual technique from the NRCS.

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<sup>1</sup> Schoeneberger, P.J., Wysocki, D.A., Benham, E.C., and Broderson, W.D. 1998. Field book for describing and sampling soils. Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE. p7-1.

Establishing a baseline is critical to evaluating the success of dust controls that have been implemented at the site. Consol and the Division would be grateful for your participation. Please contact Priscilla Burton at the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (801) 538-5288 or John Gefferth at Consol Energy (618) 625-6850 to indicate your willingness to assist. A conference call with all parties involved is advised before the field meeting to establish the purpose and define the methodology to be utilized and to schedule a date for the work.

Sincerely,

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor

pwb  
cc: John Gefferth  
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