

0005

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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November 21, 2007

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *PK*  
Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Priscilla Burton, Environmental Scientist III/Soils *PWB by an*

RE: Minor Coal Exploration Plan, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Project, C\025\0005, Task ID #2881

## SUMMARY:

On November 16, 2007, Alton Coal Development, LLC, provided a Notice of Intent to drill two additional coal exploration boreholes: CH-7 and CH-8 on land owned by C. Burton Pugh. The information was revised on November 21, 2007. These additional boreholes are being drilled to fill in gaps in the sampling of the alluvium and coal from previous boreholes (CH-01-05, -03-05, -05-05, -06-05, all drilled in 2005). The two exploration holes are located in Kane County: T. 30 S., R. 5 W. in Sec. 30 as shown on Dwg 4 of the application. Borehole CH-7 is located south of CH-01-05 and midway between CH-03-05 and CH-05-05. Borehole CH-8 is located north of CH-06-05. An archaeological inventory of the area dated June 14, 2007 indicates there are no archaeological sites in the vicinity. The drilling will begin immediately and end by January 2008.

The Alton, Utah, U. S. G. S 7.5 minute quad map shows the topography.

A truck mounted drill rig will be used. Samples of the will be collected with a hollow stem auger. [Based upon previous borehole information, the alluvium extends to a depth of approximately 40 to 50 ft.]. The shale formation will be air drilled [from approximately 45 – 150 ft.]. The coal will be cored. The coal depth varies from 60 – 150 ft. and is a layer approximately 16 ft. deep. The hole will be plugged from top to bottom with aggregate bentonite.

## EXPLORATION TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

## COMPLIANCE DUTIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202.

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## **OPERATIONAL STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-230.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Topsoil Removal, Storage and Redistribution**

The exploration plan will not substantially disturb the surface, consequently topsoil removal will not be required under R645-202.

The application describes minimal disturbance to an area that is 30 ft by 40 ft. The area will not be graded or leveled. One truck mounted drill rig will access the site by a pre-existing road. The drilling will be conducted over a couple of days under dry conditions. The holes will be reclaimed with aggregate bentonite.

### **Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of R645-201-225 for a minor coal exploration that does not substantially disturb the surface.

## **RECLAMATION STANDARDS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 772.13; R645-202-200.

### **Analysis:**

Holes will be plugged with bentonite from top to bottom, in accordance with R645-202-243. All materials will be promptly removed from the site.

#### **Revegetation**

No mud pits will be required for the auger, air drilling, and coring operation. No regrading will be required.

A blend of native grasses will be scattered over area to encourage regeneration of vegetation in tire tracks. The seed mix is provided.

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**Findings:**

The information provided is adequate to meet the requirements of R645-201-225 for a minor coal exploration that does not substantially disturb the surface.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The application is recommended for approval.

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