0073

Incoming
C/025/0005

From: "Ron Heaton" <RHeaton@sbsu.com>
To: <OGMCoal@Utah.Gov>
CC: <Daronhaddock@Utah.Gov>
Date: 5/16/2008 2:58 PM
Subject: Comment for Coal Hollow Project C/025/0005
Attachments: Alton Coal Comment Letter.doc

Attached are my comments on Alton, Kane, Utah proposed coal project. Please confirm receipt and that it opens properly.
Thank you.
Ronald Heaton
Cedar City, Utah

May 15, 2008

Comments for the Coal Hollow Project #C/025/0005

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Sirs or Madam;

I would like to comment on the above project located near Alton, Kane County, Utah. The coal mine is a surface mine project that would be significantly safer than other underground mines located in the state.

I am in favor of the above project as long as the rules and procedures of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining are adhered to and the interests of the local Town of Alton are addressed to develop roads that do not run through the Town or injure the town's environment. This country and the State of Utah are in times that demand we start using our natural resources that lead us toward energy independence or suffer significant economic stress and difficulty. This mine is one of the only places in Utah that can be surfaced mined in a manner that could bring us low cost coal for use in the State or surrounding states. I believe the mine should be allowed to go forward because:

- It would bring much needed employment opportunities to an area that has limited economic development. The pay scales would be the kind that can support families so younger people can stay in Kane County.
- It would provide a step toward energy independence for our state. I understand that some oppose use of carbon fuels but Utah is still dependent on over 90% of its electricity from coal generated plants. This coal is of much higher quality than eastern coal and the plants in Utah are much cleaner than the older plants in the mid-west and east.
- It is my understanding that the Alton Coal Development Company is working with local Kane County and city leaders to address concerns with the roads and mining operations. They have also proposed to follow all or your requirements to address the environmental impacts of mining the coal and reclaiming the mined areas.
- It would bring some economic benefit to my family who has had to rely on decreasing revenues from cattle and hunting sales. Coal royalties could help them survive and be able to continue the family ranch without selling the land to developers and others.
- Kane County is one of the counties in the State that needs more diversity in it's economic base and this project would provide that for the County.

I understand that projects of this nature bring change and have an environmental and social impact but I believe the project benefits outweigh the negative drawbacks. If I may answer any other questions please do not hesitate to write or e-mail. My e-mail is rheaton@infowest.com

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Heaton
920 West 600 South
Cedar City, Utah 84720