CHAPTER 6

GEOLOGY

R645-301-600

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R645-301-600 GEOLOGY

R645-301-610 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the geologic conditions in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent areas.

611 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A characterization of the geology within and adjacent to the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is given in sections R645-301-621 and R645-301-627. A description of the proposed operating plan for the casing and sealing of exploration holes and boreholes is presented in R645-301-630.

612 CERTIFICATION OF CROSS SECTIONS, MAPS, AND PLANS

All cross sections, maps and plans as required by R645-301-622 have been prepared and certified as described under R645-301-512.100. The cross sections and maps that are included in this permit application and are required to be certified have been prepared by or under the direction of a qualified, registered, professional engineer or a professional geologist, with assistance from experts in related fields such as hydrology, geology and landscape architecture.

R645-301-620 ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

R645-301-621 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Description of Regional Geology

The coal to be mined at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is of Cretaceous age and resides in the Alton Coal Field of southwestern Utah. The Alton Coal Field is a roughly horseshoe-shaped region that is situated between the Kaiparowits Coal Field to the east, and the Kolob Coal Field to the west.

The topography in the Alton Coal Field is marked by bench and slope topography. Topographic relief in the region is approximately 2,800 feet, with elevations ranging from about 9,300 feet on top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, to about 6,500 feet in the valley bottoms. The economic coal seams are located primarily along the western and southern flanks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.

The geologic history, geology, stratigraphy, and structure of the Alton Coal Field have been described by Doelling (1972) and Tilton (Appendix 6-3; 2001) and are summarized below. A map

of geologic formations exposed at the surface in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is shown in Drawing 6-1. A cross-section showing the regional geologic conditions in the Alton Coal Field is presented in Drawing 6-9.

Geologic History

During the Jurassic, sediment deposition into a slowly subsiding basin occurred, mostly by fluvial or eolian mechanisms. Later, during the Upper Jurassic, the area was intermittently inundated by a shallow, restrictive sea, with the accompanying deposition of sediments eroded from Mesozoic rocks to the south and west. Subsequently, prior to the end of the Lower Cretaceous, a broad uplift centered west of the Paunsaugunt area occurred, resulting in the erosion of the uplifted areas. Subsequently, to the east, the rock sequence down to the Entrada Formation was eroded away. To the west, the rock sequence down to the Carmel was eroded away. After additional erosion of the region occurred, during the latest Cretaceous or earliest Upper Cretaceous, the land subsided and the region was covered with sediments. The source of these sediments lay mostly to the west and perhaps also to the south. As the Cretaceous Interior Seaway migrated westward, rock deposition occurred in fluvial, paludal, lagoonal and perhaps nearshore marine environments during transgressions and regressions of the seaway. This deposition resulted in the formation of the rocks of the Dakota Formation, which include the economic coal seams of the Alton Coal Field. The two principal coal seams of the Dakota Formation were formed during this period, one near the beginning and the other near the end of Dakota time. After the deposition of the Dakota Formation, the area experienced marine conditions as the Cretaceous Interior Seaway encroached westward toward eastern Iron County, resulting in the deposition of the marine shales of the Tropic Shale. After the subsequent eastward regression of the seaway, nearshore sand deposition occurred, resulting in the deposition of the Straight Cliffs Formation. Deposition of the Wahweap and Formation occurred as floodplains developed and an alternating sequence of sandstones and shales was deposited. Subsidence then ceased for a time and uneven erosion of the region occurred. Subsequent fluvial deposition resulted in the deposition of the Kaiparowits Formation on the erosional surface. Later, in the early Tertiary period, the area subsided and was filled with a lake in which the carbonate sediments of the Claron Formation were deposited. Thereafter, volcanism became active to the west and spread to the margins of the Paunsaugunt. Various agglomerates and volcanic breccias were deposited along the western margin of the plateau. Late in the Tertiary period, the Sevier and Paunsaugunt Fault systems became active. During the Pleistocene, several cinder cones developed which extruded olivine basalts. These include Bald Knoll, Buck Knoll, and others.

Stratigraphy

Stratigraphic units present in the Alton Coal Field area are described in ascending order below. A stratigraphic column showing these geologic formations is shown in Drawing 6-10. A diagrammatic correlation of Cretaceous units in southern and south-central Utah is shown in Drawing 6-4.

Navajo Sandstone (Lower Jurassic)

The Navajo Sandstone is a light gray to tan, locally cross-bedded massive eolian sandstone that underlies the region. Where exposed south of the Alton area, it forms the regionally prominent White Cliffs topographic feature. The Thousand Pockets Tongue of the Navajo Sandstone intertongues with the overlying Carmel Formation. Thickness of the Navajo Sandstone exceeds 1,000 feet in the Paunsaugunt Plateau region. The Navajo Sandstone does not crop out in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Carmel Formation (Upper Jurassic)

The Carmel Formation unconformably overlies the Navajo Sandstone in the region. The Carmel Formation is heterogeneous and consists of limestone, siltstone, sandstone, and gypsum beds. The formation has been subdivided into several members by previous researchers. These include the Wiggler Wash Member, the Winsor Member, the Paria River Member, the Crystal Peak Member, and the Kolob Limestone Member. The thickness of the Carmel Formation ranges from about 650 to 800 feet in the Alton Coal Field area and the formation thickens to the west. The Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation crops out in the bottom of the Kanab Creek drainage about one mile south of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Entrada Sandstone (Upper Jurassic)

The Entrada Sandstone, which may be as thick as 500 feet regionally, is present above the Carmel Formation in the eastern portion of the Alton Coal Field. The formation consists predominantly of siltstone and cross-bedded or fine-grained massive sandstone. The formation is not present in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Dakota Formation (Cretaceous)

The Dakota Formation contains the economic coal seams in the Alton Coal Field. The formation consists of fine- to medium-grained sandstone with interbedded gray shale, carbonaceous shale, and coal. In most locations, shaley strata dominate the formation, comprising about 60 to 75 percent of the formation. The unit characteristically forms ledge and slope topography. In the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area the Dakota Formation directly overlies the Carmel Formation. Regionally, the outcrop of the Dakota Formation forms the Gray Cliffs topographic feature. The economic coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are present near the base (Bald Knoll coal zone) and near the top of the formation (Smirl coal zone). Local thinner coal seams that are not of economic importance are present in the center of the formation. The thickness in the western portion of the Alton Coal Field is about 450 feet. In the eastern portion of the Alton Coal Field, the Dakota Formation is about 150 feet thick and rests on the Entrada Sandstone.

Tropic Shale (Cretaceous)

The Tropic Shale consists predominantly of gray and carbonaceous silty shale and claystone with a few marine sandstone beds located mostly in its upper part. The formation typically weathers at the surface to a clayey soil that typically forms gentle, vegetated slopes. The Tropic Shale is present (in some locations covered with shallow alluvial or colluvial deposits) at the land surface over most of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. The formation was deposited in an open-marine offshore environment during the maximum westward transgression of the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway in the Late Cretaceous (Tilton, 2001). Near the top of the formation, more sandy horizons are interbedded with the mudstone units of the formation. These sandy units together with the sandstone at the base of the overlying Straight Cliffs Formation reflect the initial sand influx onto the marine environment of the Tropic Shale. The thickness of the Tropic Shale in the Alton Quadrangle is about 700 feet. In areas planned for mining at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, only the lower 200 to 250 feet of the Tropic Shale is present. The middle and upper portions of the formation having been removed from proposed mining areas by erosion in Sink Valley.

Information obtained from continuous core drilling in the Tropic Shale in planned mining areas in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area indicates that the lower 200 to 250 feet of the formation consists of a fairly uniform sequence of soft, dark gray silty shale or thinly bedded claystone with occasional thin lenses of siltstone and occasional layers of bentonite-like clay being present. Strong, competent rock strata that could be of consequence to surface mining operations were not encountered in any of the boreholes. Drilling information obtained from the Tropic Shale during the 2005 drilling program is presented in Appendix 6-4. Physical and chemical information from the Tropic Shale are presented in Appendix 6-2. The locations of the 2005 boreholes are shown in Appendix 6-4 and also on Drawing 6-5.

Straight Cliffs Formation (Cretaceous)

The Straight Cliffs Formation is approximately 1,200 feet thick in the Alton Quadrangle. The formation is comprised predominantly of calcite-cemented sandstone and mudstone, with sandstone composing about 75 percent of the total composition. The sandstones of the Straight Cliffs Formation make up the lower two-thirds of the ledges radiating out from the southern Paunsaugunt Plateau. Four members of the Straight Cliffs Formation have been identified in the Alton Quadrangle by Tilton (2001). These include the Tibbet Canyon Member (orange-gray weathering fine- to medium grained sandstone), the Smoky Hollow Member (interbedded sandstone, mudstone, and thin coal), the John Henry Member (interbedded mudstone and fluvial sandstone), and Drip Tank Member (light-gray cliff forming sandstone). The Straight Cliffs Formation outcrops on the hillsides east and north of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations (Cretaceous)

The Wahweap Formation is composed of alternating sandy shales and thin- to thick-bedded sandstones. The unit contains carbonaceous shale and thin coal beds that are not of economic

importance in its lower part. The unit forms step-like topography. Regionally, the Wahweap Formation is separated from the overlying Kaiparowits Formation by an unconformity. Erosion of both the Wahweap and Straight Cliffs Formations prior to the deposition of the Kaiparowits Formation may have locally reduced the thicknesses of these formations in the vicinity of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The Kaiparowits Formation is composed of irregular beds of arkosic sandstone. The sandstone is weakly cemented by calcite cement. Because of difficulties identifying mappable boundaries between the Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations in the Alton Quadrangle, the formations were mapped as an undivided unit (Tilton, 2001). The total thickness of the Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations in the Alton Quadrangle ranges from about 600 to 800 feet.

Claron Formation (Tertiary)

The Claron Formation (also sometimes known as the Wasatch Formation, although the Utah Geological Survey uses the name Claron Formation) forms the cap rock over much of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The formation is also present west of the Sevier Fault Zone west and north of the town of Alton. The unit is subdivided into a lower pink (also known as red) member and an upper white member, both consisting mostly of massive, fine-grained crystalline limestone of fluvial and lacustrine origin. Resistance to erosion varies both vertically and horizontally in the Claron Formation, resulting in a series of cliffs and steep joints. This condition, together with the presence of closely spaced joints, produces the unique topography associated with the Claron Formation. The Claron Formation is about 800 thick in the Alton Quadrangle. Also mapped together with the Claron Formation in the Alton Quadrangle is the Cretaceous Canaan Peak Formation. The Canaan Peak is a thin, discontinuous formation consisting primarily of conglomerate and conglomeratic sandstone with some mudstone interbeds sometimes present at the base of the Claron Formation. Thickness of the Canaan Peak Formation locally ranges from 0 to 30 feet.

Brian Head Formation (Tertiary)

The Brian Head Formation consists of interbedded pink and purplish-gray very fine-grained sandstone, friable sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone, mudstone, and limey mudstone in its lower part, and gray to white, fine- to medium-grained sandstone and calcarenite, in part with a volcanically derived clay matrix. The formation includes rocks present above the underlying white member of the Claron Formation and the overlying ash-flow tuff of the Needles Range Group. The unit is not resistant to erosion and has been eroded away from the top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in the Alton Quadrangle. The formation is present in the rugged hills west of the Sevier Fault Zone near the town of Alton. The unit is about 200 feet thick in the Alton Quadrangle.

Quaternary Deposits

Quaternary deposits present in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area include pediment alluvium, landslide deposits, mass-wasting debris, and alluvial fan deposits. Narrow deposits of stream alluvium are present immediately adjacent to some stream channels.

The pediment alluvium deposits in the region consist of poorly sorted alluvial and colluvial silt, sand, and gravel deposited on broad pediments. After deposition, the pediment surfaces were abandoned as streams have cut down to lower levels.

Landslide deposits in the area are primarily gravity-transported hummocky deposits of mud, sand, and occasional blocks of sandstone. Most of the landslide deposits originated from the lower portion of the Straight Cliffs Formation and slid onto the underlying Tropic Shale, although movement within the Tropic Shale has also occurred. A conspicuous series of progressively built landslide deposits is present east of the Alton Amphitheater as a broad, rolling apron below the lowest cliffs of the Straight Cliffs Formation. The thickness of the landslide deposits locally ranges from a few feet to more than 100 feet.

Alluvium deposits in the region consist of unconsolidated clay, silt, sand, and gravel in and near existing drainages. These deposits exist as stream and fan alluvium and terrace deposits. In the headwaters of the mountain streams, the alluvial material consists predominantly of sand and gravel. In downstream areas, the alluvial material consists mostly of mud derived from the Tropic Shale. Alluvial thickness in the Alton Quadrangle typically ranges from a thin covering to about 10 feet or more.

In the Sink Valley and Lower Robinson Creek drainages near the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, drilling information indicates that alluvial thicknesses are in some locations considerably greater. Alluvial thicknesses measured in the permit and adjacent area range from a thin veneer overlying bedrock formation in many areas to at least 140 feet in thickness along the eastern margins of Sink Valley (see Drawing 6-3). Much of the land surface in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area consists of fan alluvium (mostly composed of clays, silts, and fine-grained sands) derived largely from the highly erodable Tropic Shale in adjacent highland areas east of the proposed permit area. Field investigations suggest that these fan deposits are associated with sheetfloods, debris flows and mud flows. Additional geologic information on alluvial deposition in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area is presented in Appendix 7-1.

An igneous dike consisting of black, fine-grained porphyritic olivine basalt is present northeast of Alton near Kanab Creek.

Structure

Rock strata in the region dip gently toward the north and north-east, generally from 1 to 5 degrees. The Alton Coal Field is bounded on the east by the Paunsaugunt Fault and on the west by the Sevier Fault. Regional displacements on these two faults are about 1,000 to 2,000 feet, and 100 to 800 feet, respectively. Additionally, several faults with lesser displacements have been mapped in the region, including the Sand Pass Fault zone (about 400 feet of offset), the Bald Knoll Fault (about 650 feet of offset), and the Sink Valley Fault (likely a few tens of feet of offset). Most local faults in the Alton Quadrangle trend in a northerly or north-westerly direction, are several miles long, and are near vertical. A preminent north- to northwest-trending vertical joint set is present in the Upper Cretaceous sandstone rocks in the region. Stratal dips vary appreciably near the fault zones.

Description of Coal Seam Geology

The coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are located in the Smoky Hollow Member of the Straight Cliffs Formation, and in the Dakota Formation. The coal seam in the Smoky Hollow Member, which occurs within the lower 3 feet of the Member, is only a few inches in thickness and is not of economic importance. Within the Dakota Formation, two regionally important coal zones are present. These include the Smirl coal zone, which is located near the upper formational contact with the Tropic Shale, and the Bald Knoll coal zone, which is located about 200 feet below the Smirl coal zone near the base of the Dakota Formation. Doelling (1972) reported that the Smirl coal zone is 14 to 18 feet thick without splits, while the Bald Knoll coal zone contains several coal seams separated by thin splits, with the thickest seam being 4.8 feet thick. Doelling (1972) reports that coal in the Alton area is a high-volatile Bituminous coal. Additional information on coal quality is presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder).

The coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are located in the Smoky Hollow Member of the Straight Cliffs Formation, and in the Dakota Formation. The coal seam in the Smoky Hollow Member, which occurs within the lower 3 feet of the Member, is only a few inches in thickness and is not of economic importance. Within the Dakota Formation, two regionally important coal zones are present. These include the Smirl coal zone, which is located near the upper formational contact with the Tropic Shale, and the Bald Knoll coal zone, which is located about 200 feet below the Smirl coal zone near the base of the Dakota Formation.

Within the Alton Quadrangle, five small mines and two prospects have been worked. Production from these mines was small, with a total production from all mines of 35,000 and 50,000 tons from the late 1920s to 1969, when the last mine closed. The last operating mine in the Alton Coal Field was the Smirl Mine, which was located about 1.5 miles south of the town of Alton. In its last year of operation, a total of 1,597 tons of coal was produced. The Smirl Mine portal was sealed by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in 1992.

622 **CROSS-SECTIONS, MAPS AND PLANS**

622.100
Elevations of the coal seam to be mined and locations of drill holes are listed in Table 6-1 and shown in Drawing 6-5. Drill hole collar elevations and intervals cored and plugged are shown in Table 6-1.

622.200
The depth and thickness of surrounding strata are shown on a stratigraphic column in Drawing 6-10. Additional information regarding thicknesses of strata in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area from drilling information is given in Appendix 6-4. Information on the thickness of the Smirl coal zone is listed in Table 6-1. A Smirl coal zone thickness isopach map is presented in Drawing 5-14. Two cross-sections through the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, showing stratigraphic relationships, approximate overburden thickness, and coal seam thickness, together with a cross-section location map are presented in Drawings 6-6, 6-7, and 6-8. Two additional cross-sections showing stratigraphic relationships, approximate overburden thicknesses, and

approximate coal seam thicknesses are shown in Drawing 6-3. A geologic cross-section depicting regional stratigraphic relationships is shown in Drawing 6-9. An overburden isopach map is provided in Drawing 5-15.

Representative drill hole logs depicting the nature, depth and thickness of the coal seam to be mined and rider seams in the overlying strata and the nature of the Dakota Formation strata immediately below the coal seam to be mined are presented in Appendix 6-4. Drill holes CH-01-05, CH-03-05, CH-05-05, and CH-06-05 were drilled during the 2005 drilling program. Drill hole CH-02-05 was a planned coal exploration hole located outside the proposed mining areas that was drilled at a later time. Due to drilling complications, drill hole CH-02-05 could not be advanced to the coal seam and, subsequently, was abandoned. Drill hole CH-04-05 was permitted in 2005, but was not drilled. Two additional boreholes, CH-7 and CH-8, were drilled during the 2007 drilling program. No rider seams are present in the overburden strata in the proposed coal mining area.

622.300
The outcrop line of the seam to be mined (Smirl coal zone) is shown on the geologic map in Drawing 6-1. The strike and dip of the Smirl coal zone in the permit area is also shown on Drawings 6-1 and 6-6.

622.400
No oil and gas wells exist within the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

623 GEOLOGIC INFORMATION

623.100 Acid or Toxic-Forming Strata

No acid-forming or toxic-forming strata are present in strata overlying or in the stratum immediately below the Smirl coal seam in planned mining areas in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Chemical information on the acid- and toxic-forming potential of earth materials naturally present in the proposed permit area are presented in Appendix 6-2. Chemical information on the low-sulfur Smirl coal zone proposed for mining is presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder). Based on laboratory analytical data, it is apparent that acid-forming and toxic-forming materials that could result in the contamination of surface-water or groundwater supplies in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area are generally not present.

Selenium was not detected in any of the samples from the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. Likewise, concentrations of water-extractable boron were also low, being less than 3 mg/kg in all samples analyzed. The pH of groundwaters in and around the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area are moderately alkaline. Data in Appendix 6-2 likewise indicate moderately alkaline conditions in sediments in the proposed permit area. The solubility of dissolved trace metals is limited in waters with alkaline pH conditions. Consequently, high concentrations of these metal constituents in groundwaters and surface waters with elevated pH levels are not anticipated.

The neutralization potential greatly exceeded the acid potential in all samples analyzed, with the neutralization potential commonly exceeding the acid potential by many times, suggesting that acid-mine-drainage will not be a concern at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine. Acid-forming materials in western coal mine environments often consist of sulfide minerals, commonly including pyrite and marcasite, which, when exposed to air and water, are oxidized causing the

liberation of H^+ ions (acid) into the water. Oxidation of sulfide minerals may occur in limited amounts in the mine pits where oxygenated water encounters sulfide minerals. However, the acid produced by pyrite oxidation is quickly consumed by dissolution of abundant, naturally occurring carbonate minerals (Appendix 6-2). Dissolved iron is readily precipitated as iron-hydroxide in well aerated waters, and consequently excess iron is not anticipated in mine discharge water.

Other acid-forming materials or toxic-forming materials have not been identified in significant concentrations nor are such suspected to exist in materials to be disturbed by mining.

Because of the overall low-permeability of the rock strata and sediments surrounding the mine workings (primarily the shales and claystones of the lower Tropic Shale), the potential for seepage of mine water into adjacent stratigraphic horizons is low. Additionally, because the floors of the mine pits need to be accessible in order to extract the coal, the mining operations will be carried out in such a manner that the accumulation of large amounts of water in the mine pits will be avoided.

Based on the information in Appendix 6-2 there is no indication that appreciable potential for acid or toxic formation is present.

It is anticipated that coal produced from the proposed Coal Hollow Mine will be shipped as a mine-run product. Thus, no coal processing wastes are anticipated.

623.200 Reclamation Feasibility

Based on the proposed mine plan and the existing geologic and hydrogeologic conditions encountered at the propose Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area, it is anticipated that successful reclamation of the site will be feasible. Additional information on the feasibility of reclamation at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is given in Chapter 2 (soils) and Chapter 3 (biology) of this MRP. There are no special categories or circumstances associated with mining at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area that would render reclamation unfeasible.

Most of the materials that will be handled as part of mining and reclamation activities in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine area are of low hydraulic conductivity (i.e. clays, shales, siltstones, claystones, etc.). Consequently, it is anticipated that groundwater seepage volumes through backfilled and reclaimed land surfaces in reclaimed mine pit areas and excess spoils storage areas will not be large. Additionally, reclaimed areas will be regraded, sloped, and otherwise managed to minimize the potential for land erosion, to restore approximate surface-water drainage patterns, and also to minimize the potential for ponding of surface waters on reclaimed areas (other than "roughening" or "gouging" of some areas to enhance reclamation). Thus, the potential for interactions between large amounts of disturbed earth materials and groundwaters and surface waters, which could result in leaching of chemical constituents into groundwater and surface-water resources, will be minimized.

Additionally, the mining plan calls for the emplacement of 40 inches of suitable cover material

over backfilled areas made up of material types which could negatively impact vegetation (materials with elevated SAR ratios or other physical or chemical characteristics that could cause appreciable adverse impacts on vegetation).

Several investigations involving reclamation of surface disturbed areas in the vicinity have been performed by other entities. These included the use of test plots to measure reclamation feasibility and success. The results of these investigations have been presented in published documents (Ferguson and Frischknecht 1985; USDI 1975). These investigations have demonstrated the feasibility of successful reclamation in the area.

623-300 Subsidence Control Plan

The proposed mining in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area does not include underground coal mining activities. This section is not applicable.

624 **GEOLOGIC DESCRIPTION**

624.100 Regional and Structural Geology

The coal to be mined in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is of Cretaceous age and resides in the Alton Coal Field of southwestern Utah. The Alton Coal Field is a roughly horseshoe-shaped region that is situated between the Kaiparowits Coal Field to the east, and the Kolob Coal Field to the west.

The topography in the Alton Coal Field is marked by bench and slope topography. Topographic relief in the region is approximately 2,800 feet, with elevations ranging from about 9,300 feet on top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, to about 6,500 feet in the valley bottoms. The economic coal seams are located primarily along the western and southern flanks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.

The geologic history, geology, stratigraphy, and structure of the Alton Coal Field have been described by Doelling (1972) and Tilton (Appendix 6-3; 2001) and are summarized below. A map of geologic formations exposed at the surface in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is shown in Drawing 6-1. A cross-section showing the regional geologic conditions in the Alton Coal Field is presented in Drawing 6-9.

Stratigraphy

Stratigraphic units present in the Alton Coal Field area are described in ascending order below. A stratigraphic column showing these geologic formations is shown in Drawing 6-10. A diagrammatic correlation of Cretaceous units in southern and south-central Utah is shown in Drawing 6-4.

Navajo Sandstone (Lower Jurassic)

The Navajo Sandstone is a light gray to tan, locally cross-bedded, massive eolian sandstone that underlies the region. Where exposed south of the Alton area, it forms the regionally prominent White Cliffs topographic feature. The Thousand Pockets Tongue of the Navajo Sandstone intertongues with the overlying Carmel Formation. Thickness of the Navajo Sandstone exceeds 1,000 feet in the Paunsaugunt Plateau region. The Navajo Sandstone does not crop out in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area.

Carmel Formation (Upper Jurassic)

The Carmel Formation unconformably overlies the Navajo Sandstone in the region. The Carmel Formation is heterogeneous and consists of limestone, siltstone, sandstone, and gypsum beds. The formation has been subdivided into several members by previous researchers. These include the Wiggler Wash Member, the Winsor Member, the Paria River Member, the Crystal Peak Member, and the Kolob Limestone Member. The thickness of the Carmel Formation ranges from about 650 to 800 feet in the Alton Coal Field area and the formation thickens to the west. The Winsor Member of the Carmel Formation crops out in the bottom of the Kanab Creek drainage about one mile south of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Entrada Sandstone (Upper Jurassic)

The Entrada Sandstone, which may be as thick as 500 feet regionally, is present above the Carmel Formation in the eastern portion of the Alton Coal Field. The formation consists predominantly of siltstone and cross-bedded or fine-grained massive sandstone. The formation is not present in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area.

Dakota Formation (Cretaceous)

The Dakota Formation contains the economic coal seams in the Alton Coal Field. The formation consists of fine- to medium-grained sandstone with interbedded gray shale, carbonaceous shale, and coal. In most locations, shaley strata dominate the formation, comprising about 60 to 75 percent of the formation. The unit characteristically forms ledge and slope topography. In the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area the Dakota Formation directly overlies the Carmel Formation. Regionally, the outcrop of the Dakota Formation forms the Gray Cliffs topographic feature. The economic coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are present near the base (Bald Knoll coal zone) and near the top of the formation (Smirl coal zone). Local thinner coal seams that are not of economic importance are present in the center of the formation. The thickness in the western portion of the Alton Coal Field is about 450 feet. In the eastern portion of the Alton Coal Field, the Dakota Formation is about 150 feet thick and rests on the Entrada Sandstone.

Tropic Shale (Cretaceous)

The Tropic Shale consists predominantly of gray and carbonaceous silty shale and claystone with a few marine sandstone beds located mostly in its upper part. The formation typically weathers at the surface to a clayey soil that typically forms gentle, vegetated slopes. The Tropic Shale is present (in some locations covered with shallow alluvial or colluvial deposits) at the land surface over most of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. The formation was deposited in an open-marine offshore environment during the maximum westward transgression of the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway in the Late Cretaceous (Tilton, 2001). Near the top of the formation, more sandy horizons are interbedded with the mudstone units of the formation. These sandy units together with the sandstone at the base of the overlying Straight Cliffs Formation reflect the initial sand influx onto the marine environment of the Tropic Shale. The thickness of the Tropic Shale in the Alton Quadrangle is about 700 feet. In areas planned for mining at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, only the lower 200 to 250 feet of the Tropic Shale is present. The middle and upper portions of the formation having been removed from proposed mining areas by erosion in Sink Valley.

Information obtained from continuous core drilling in the Tropic Shale in planned mining areas in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area indicates that the lower 200 to 250 feet of the formation consists of a fairly uniform sequence of soft, dark gray silty shale or thinly bedded claystone with occasional thin lenses of siltstone and occasional layers of bentonite-like clay being present. Strong, competent rock strata that could be of consequence to surface mining operations were not encountered in any of the boreholes. Drilling information obtained from the Tropic Shale during the 2005 drilling program is presented in Appendix 6-4. Physical and chemical information from the Tropic Shale are presented in Appendix 6-2. The locations of the 2005 boreholes are shown in Appendix 6-4 and also on Drawing 6-5.

Straight Cliffs Formation (Cretaceous)

The Straight Cliffs Formation is approximately 1,200 feet thick in the Alton Quadrangle. The formation is comprised predominantly of calcite-cemented sandstone and mudstone, with sandstone composing about 75 percent of the total composition. The sandstones of the Straight Cliffs Formation make up the lower two-thirds of the ledges radiating out from the southern Paunsaugunt Plateau. Four members of the Straight Cliffs Formation have been identified in the Alton Quadrangle by Tilton (2001). These include the Tibbet Canyon Member (orange-gray weathering fine- to medium grained sandstone), the Smoky Hollow Member (interbedded sandstone, mudstone, and thin coal), the John Henry Member (interbedded mudstone and fluvial sandstone), and Drip Tank Member (light-gray cliff forming sandstone). The Straight Cliffs Formation outcrops on the hillsides east and north of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations (Cretaceous)

The Wahweap Formation is composed of alternating sandy shales and thin- to thick-bedded sandstones. The unit contains carbonaceous shale and thin coal beds that are not of economic

importance in its lower part. The unit forms step-like topography. Regionally, the Wahweap Formation is separated from the overlying Kaiparowits Formation by an unconformity. Erosion of both the Wahweap and Straight Cliffs Formations prior to the deposition of the Kaiparowits Formation may have locally reduced the thicknesses of these formations in the vicinity of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The Kaiparowits Formation is composed of irregular beds of arkosic sandstone. The sandstone is weakly cemented by calcite cement. Because of difficulties identifying mappable boundaries between the Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations in the Alton Quadrangle, the formations were mapped as an undivided unit (Tilton, 2001). The total thickness of the Wahweap and Kaiparowits Formations in the Alton Quadrangle ranges from about 600 to 800 feet.

Claron Formation (Tertiary)

The Claron Formation (also sometimes known as the Wasatch Formation, although the Utah Geological Survey uses the name Claron Formation) forms the cap rock over much of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. The formation is also present west of the Sevier Fault Zone west and north of the town of Alton. The unit is subdivided into a lower pink (also known as red) member and an upper white member, both consisting mostly of massive, fine-grained crystalline limestone of fluvial and lacustrine origin. Resistance to erosion varies both vertically and horizontally in the Claron Formation, resulting in a series of cliffs and steep joints. This condition, together with the presence of closely spaced joints, produces the unique topography associated with the Claron Formation. The Claron Formation is about 800 thick in the Alton Quadrangle. Also mapped together with the Claron Formation in the Alton Quadrangle is the Cretaceous Canaan Peak Formation. The Canaan Peak is a thin, discontinuous formation consisting primarily of conglomerate and conglomeratic sandstone with some mudstone interbeds sometimes present at the base of the Claron Formation. Thickness of the Canaan Peak Formation locally ranges from 0 to 30 feet.

Brian Head Formation (Tertiary)

The Brian Head Formation consists of interbedded pink and purplish-gray very fine-grained sandstone, friable sandstone, conglomerate, siltstone, mudstone, and limey mudstone in its lower part, and gray to white, fine- to medium-grained sandstone and calcarenite, in part with a volcanically derived clay matrix. The formation includes rocks present above the underlying white member of the Claron Formation and the overlying ash-flow tuff of the Needles Range Group. The unit is not resistant to erosion and has been eroded away from the top of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in the Alton Quadrangle. The formation is present in the rugged hills west of the Sevier Fault zone near the town of Alton. The unit is about 200 feet thick in the Alton Quadrangle.

Quaternary Deposits

Quaternary deposits present in the area include pediment alluvium, landslide deposits, mass-wasting debris, and alluvium.

The pediment alluvium deposits in the region consist of poorly sorted alluvial and colluvial silt, sand, and gravel deposited on broad pediments. After deposition, the pediment surfaces were abandoned as streams have cut down to lower levels.

Landslide deposits in the area are primarily gravity-transported hummocky deposits of mud, sand, and occasional blocks of sandstone. Most of the landslide deposits originated from the lower portion of the Straight Cliffs Formation and slid onto the underlying Tropic Shale, although movement within the Tropic Shale has also occurred. A conspicuous series of progressively built landslide deposits is present east of the Alton Amphitheater as a broad, rolling apron below the lowest cliffs of the Straight Cliffs Formation. The thickness of the landslide deposits locally ranges from a few feet to more than 100 feet.

Alluvium deposits in the region consist of unconsolidated clay, silt, sand, and gravel in and near existing drainages. These deposits exist as stream and fan alluvium and terrace deposits. In the headwaters of the mountain streams, the alluvial material consists predominantly of sand and gravel. In downstream areas, the alluvial material consists mostly of mud derived from the Tropic Shale. Alluvial thickness in the Alton Quadrangle typically ranges from a thin covering to about 10 feet or more.

In the Sink Valley and Lower Robinson Creek drainages near the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, drilling information indicates that alluvial thicknesses are in some locations considerably greater. Alluvial thicknesses measured in the permit and adjacent area range from a thin veneer overlying bedrock formation in many areas to at least 140 feet in thickness along the eastern margins of Sink Valley (see Drawing 6-3). Much of the land surface in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area consists of fan alluvium (mostly composed of clays, silts, and fine-grained sands) derived largely from the highly erodable Tropic Shale in adjacent highland areas east of the proposed permit area. Field investigations suggest that these fan deposits are associated with sheetfloods, debris flows and mud flows. Additional geologic information on alluvial deposition in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area is presented in Appendix 7-1.

An igneous dike consisting of black, fine-grained porphyritic olivine basalt is present northeast of Alton near Kanab Creek.

Structure

Rock strata in the region dip gently toward the north and north-east, generally from 1 to 5 degrees. The Alton Coal Field is bounded on the east by the Paunsaugunt Fault and on the west by the Sevier Fault. Regional displacements on these two faults are about 1,000 to 2,000 feet, and 100 to 800 feet, respectively. Additionally, several faults with lesser displacements have been mapped in the region, including the Sand Pass Fault zone (about 400 feet of offset), the Bald Knoll Fault (about 650 feet of offset), and the Sink Valley Fault (likely a few tens of feet of offset). Most local faults in the Alton Quadrangle trend in a northerly or north-westerly direction, are several miles long, and are near vertical. A prominent north- to northwest-trending vertical joint set is present in the Upper Cretaceous sandstone rocks in the region. Stratal dips vary appreciably near the fault zones.

The Sink Valley Fault extends in a roughly north-south direction through the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area from upland areas north of the permit area southward through the central part of the proposed permit area subsequently further south near the eastern edge of the proposed permit area (Drawing 6-1; Appendix 6-3; Drawing 6-9). The fault has down-dropped the strata on the west side of the fault (Appendix 6-3). The offset on the Sink Valley Fault is not known precisely, however based on drilling information from the proposed permit and adjacent area it is apparent that offset on the fault in the vicinity of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area is a few 10s of feet or less.

Description of Coal Seam Geology

The coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are located in the Smoky Hollow Member of the Straight Cliffs Formation, and in the Dakota Formation. The coal seam in the Smoky Hollow Member, which occurs within the lower 3 feet of the Member, is only a few inches in thickness and is not of economic importance. Within the Dakota Formation, two regionally important coal zones are present. These include the Smirl coal zone, which is located near the upper formational contact with the Tropic Shale, and the Bald Knoll coal zone, which is located about 200 feet below the Smirl coal zone near the base of the Dakota Formation. Doelling (1972) reported that the Smirl coal zone is 14 to 18 feet thick without splits, while the Bald Knoll coal zone contains several coal seams separated by thin splits, with the thickest seam being 4.8 feet thick. Doelling (1972) reports that coal in the Alton area is a high-volatile Bituminous coal. Additional information on coal quality is presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder).

The coal seams in the Alton Coal Field are located in the Smoky Hollow Member of the Straight Cliffs Formation, and in the Dakota Formation. The coal seam in the Smoky Hollow Member, which occurs within the lower 3 feet of the Member, is only a few inches in thickness and is not of economic importance. Within the Dakota Formation, two regionally important coal zones are present. These include the Smirl coal zone, which is located near the upper formational contact with the Tropic Shale, and the Bald Knoll coal zone, which is located about 200 feet below the Smirl coal zone near the base of the Dakota Formation.

Within the Alton Quadrangle, five small mines and two prospects have been worked. Production from these mines was small, with a total production from all mines of 35,000 and 50,000 tons from the late 1920s to 1969, when the last mine closed. The last operating mine in the Alton Coal Field was the Smirl Mine, which was located about 1.5 miles south of the town of Alton. In its last year of operation, a total of 1,597 tons of coal was produced. The Smirl Mine portal was sealed by the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in 1992.

Groundwater

The depositional history of geologic formations in the proposed permit and adjacent area has resulted in a heterogeneous sequence of rocks that have a profound effect on the movement and availability of groundwater. The stratigraphic package located in the upland regions along the Paunsaugunt Plateau lies well beyond the zone that could potentially be impacted by mining

operations in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. With the exception of the Navajo Sandstone, the rock formations present along the flanks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau area are typically lenticular in nature. Although aquifer-quality rocks may be present in lenses within individual geologic formations, the fact that the lenses are discontinuous in their extent and are typically encased in a surrounding low-permeability matrix, regional type groundwater flow regimes typically do not form. Additionally, because the geologic formations in the Paunsaugunt Plateau overlying the Tropic Shale are truncated by the plateau escarpment, long, regional type groundwater flow paths typically cannot exist in the proposed permit area. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area, the only bedrock formations that crop out are the Tropic Shale and underlying Dakota Formation. The Windsor Member of the Carmel Formation also crops out at the surface about one mile southwest of the proposed permit area. The water-transmitting properties of the lower portion of the marine Tropic Shale unit that overlies the Smirl coal seam in areas proposed for mining are poor.

Lithologic data collected during continuous core drilling in the Tropic Shale indicate that the rocks of the Tropic Shale in the proposed mining area are composed almost entirely of a fairly uniform sequence of dark gray shale, silty shale, and claystone with high clay content. No appreciable water was encountered during drilling activities in the Tropic Shale in the proposed mining areas and no appreciable spring discharge from formation has been observed. The Tropic Shale in the proposed permit area is underlain by the Dakota Formation, which crops out in the western portion of the proposed permit area and in the bottoms of the Kanab Creek drainage (Drawing 6-1; Appendix 6-3). Vertical recharge to the Dakota Formation through the overlying Tropic Shale is likely negligible due to the poor groundwater transmitting properties of the Tropic Shale discussed above. In addition to the lack of vertical recharge to the Dakota Formation, vertical and horizontal groundwater flow in the formation is impeded because of the abundant presence of low-permeability shaley strata that encase potentially permeable lenticular sandstone strata both vertically and horizontally. Consequently, the potential for the transmission of appreciable quantities of groundwater through the formation is limited (i.e., it is not a good aquifer). Consequently, groundwater discharge from the rocks of the Dakota Formation in the proposed permit area is not appreciable. Because vertical recharge to the Dakota Formation from the Tropic Shale is minimal, the removal of the Tropic Shale from above the Dakota Formation during mining operations followed shortly thereafter by the backfilling and reclamation of mine pits with low-permeability materials would likely not detrimentally impact groundwater systems in the Dakota Formation (i.e., the post-mining conditions will be similar to the pre-mining conditions) .

Shallow groundwater systems have been identified in alluvial sediments in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area, most notably in Sink Valley. These shallow alluvial groundwater systems exist in much of Sink Valley and in some locations in the Lower Robinson Creek drainage. The alluvial groundwater systems are likely recharged along the flanks of the Paunsaugunt Plateau through mountain-front-recharge processes. Groundwater flow directions in these alluvial groundwater systems is generally from recharge areas east of the proposed permit area toward lower elevation areas to the west and south. In most locations near the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area, the alluvial groundwater systems are directly underlain by the low-permeability Tropic Shale bedrock, which likely prevents appreciable downward migration of the alluvial groundwater into deeper formations. Additional information on groundwater resources in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area is provided in Chapter 7 of this MRP and

in Appendix 7-1.

624.110 Cross Sections, Maps, Plans.

624.120 Information for this section is found in R645-301-624.200, R645-301-624.300 and R645-301-625.

624.130 Geologic Literature and Practices

The geologic literature utilized in preparing R645-301-600 is listed in the reference list presented at the end of this chapter.

Additional geologic data were collected during field investigations conducted by qualified personnel. Geologic analysis and geologic interpretations were performed by a registered professional geologist in the State of Utah. All practices and procedures for obtaining geologic information have been standard for the industry.

624.200
Samples have been collected and analyzed from test borings in the proposed permit area. The samples were collected from fresh, unweathered, uncontaminated drill cores. The samples were collected and analyzed from the ground surface down to and including the first stratum immediately below the Smirl coal zone to be mined. The laboratory analytical parameters analyzed were comprehensive and as recommended by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. Results of the analyses are presented in Appendix 6-2. Additional information regarding the physical and chemical characteristics of the Smirl coal zone to be mined are presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder).

624.210
Geologic logs were prepared that show the lithologic characteristics including physical properties and thickness of each stratum and locations of groundwater where occurring. The well logs are presented in Appendix 6-1. Cross-sections prepared from geologic logs of drillholes in the proposed permit and adjacent area are provided in Drawing 6-3. Additional geologic logs are presented in Appendix 5-1 and Appendix 7-4. Additional lithologic characterization is provided in Appendix 7-1.

624.220
Chemical analyses of strata overlying and immediately below the Smirl coal zone for acid- or toxic-forming materials are presented in Appendix 6-2.

No acid-forming or toxic-forming strata are present in strata overlying or in the stratum immediately below the Smirl coal seam in planned mining areas in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area.

Chemical information on the acid- and toxic-forming potential of earth materials naturally

present in the proposed permit area are presented in Appendix 6-2. Chemical information on the low-sulfur Smirl coal zone proposed for mining is presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder). Based on laboratory analytical data, it is apparent that acid-forming and toxic-forming materials that could result in the contamination of surface-water or groundwater supplies in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area are generally not present.

Selenium was not detected in any of the samples from the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. Likewise, concentrations of water-extractable boron were also low, being less than 3 mg/kg in all samples analyzed. The pH of groundwaters in and around the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area are moderately alkaline. Data in Appendix 6-2 likewise indicate moderately alkaline conditions in sediments in the proposed permit area. The solubility of dissolved trace metals is usually limited in waters with alkaline pH conditions. Consequently, high concentrations of these metal constituents in groundwaters and surface waters with elevated pH levels are not anticipated.

The neutralization potential greatly exceeded the acid potential in all samples analyzed, with the neutralization potential commonly exceeding the acid potential by many times, suggesting that acid-mine-drainage will not be a concern at the proposed Coal Hollow Mine. Acid-forming materials in western coal mine environments often consist of sulfide minerals, commonly including pyrite and marcasite, which, when exposed to air and water, are oxidized causing the liberation of H^+ ions (acid) into the water. Oxidation of sulfide minerals may occur in limited amounts in the mine pits where oxygenated water encounters sulfide minerals. However, the acid produced by pyrite oxidation is quickly consumed by dissolution of abundant, naturally occurring carbonate minerals (Appendix 6-2). Dissolved iron is readily precipitated as iron-hydroxide in well aerated waters, and consequently excess iron is not anticipated in mine discharge water.

Other acid-forming materials or toxic-forming materials have not been identified in significant concentrations nor are such suspected to exist in materials to be disturbed by mining.

Because of the overall low-permeability of the rock strata and sediments surrounding the mine workings (primarily the shales and claystones of the lower Tropic Shale), the potential for seepage of mine water into adjacent stratigraphic horizons is low. Additionally, because the floors of the mine pits need to be accessible in order to extract the coal, the mining operations will be carried out in such a manner that the accumulation of large amounts of water in the mine pits will be avoided.

Based on the information in Appendix 6-2 there is no indication that appreciable potential for acid or toxic formation is present.

It is anticipated that coal produced from the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area will be shipped as a mine-run product. Thus, no coal processing wastes are anticipated.

624.230
Chemical analyses of the Smirl coal seam for acid- or toxic-forming materials including total sulfur

and pyritic sulfur are presented in Appendix 6-1 (confidential binder).

624.300
The proposed mining in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area does not include underground coal mining activities. This section is not applicable.

627 OVERBURDEN THICKNESS AND LITHOLOGY

The planned mining in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area does not include underground coal mining activities.

Overburden in planned mining areas in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area consists of the following.

Alluvium

Alluvial sediments are present at the surface in most areas proposed for mining. These sediments consist primarily of clays, silts, and fine-grained sands. The thickness of the alluvium in proposed mining areas ranges from a thin veneer to about 50 feet. The alluvial sediments in most areas are not well sorted and are derived largely from weathering of the Tropic Shale in adjacent upland areas.

Tropic Shale

In all proposed mining areas, the lower portion of the Tropic Shale overlies the Dakota Formation Smirl coal zone to be mined. The thickness of the Tropic Shale overlying the coal seam in proposed mining areas ranges from a few feet up to about 200 feet. The lower Tropic Shale consists predominantly of soft shales, silty shales, and claystones, with occasional thin layers of siltstone and bentonite-like clay layers up to about 2 feet in thickness. Strong, competent rock strata were not encountered in exploration boreholes drilled during 2005 in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area. Well logs graphically depicting this information are presented in Appendix 6-1. Cross-sections prepared from geologic logs of drillholes in the proposed permit and adjacent area are provided in Drawings 6-3, 6-7, and 6-8. Additional geologic logs are presented in Appendix 5-1 and Appendix 7-4. Additional lithologic characterization is provided in Appendix 7-1.

630 OPERATION PLAN

631 PLAN FOR CASING AND SEALING EXPLORATION HOLES

Exploration holes and boreholes will be backfilled, plugged, cased, capped, sealed, or otherwise managed to prevent acid or toxic contamination of water resources and to minimize disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Exploration holes and boreholes will be managed to ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery.

If any exploration boreholes are to be used as monitoring wells or water wells, these will meet the provisions of R645-301-731

Wells constructed for monitoring groundwater conditions in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area, including exploration holes and boreholes used for water wells or monitoring wells, will be designed to prevent contamination of groundwater and surface-water resources and to protect the hydrologic balance. A diagram depicting typical monitoring well construction methods is shown in Drawing 7-11. Monitoring wells will include a protective hydraulic seal immediately above the screened interval, an annular seal plugging the borehole above the hydraulic seal to near the ground surface, and a concrete surface seal extending from the top of the hydraulic seal to the ground surface which is sloped away from the well casing to prevent the entrance of surface flows into the borehole area. Well casings will protrude above the ground surface a sufficient height so as to minimize the potential for the entrance of surface water or other material into the well. A steel surface protector with a locking cover will be installed at monitoring wells to prevent access by unauthorized personnel. Where there is potential for damage to monitoring wells, the wells will be protected through the use of barricades, fences, or other protective devices. These protective devices will be periodically inspected and maintained in good operating conditions. Monitoring wells will be locked in a closed position between uses.

When no longer needed for monitoring or other use approved by the Division upon a finding of no adverse environmental or health and safety effects, or unless approved for transfer as a water well under R645-301-731.100 through R645-301-731.522 and R645-301-731.800, each well will be capped, sealed, backfilled, or otherwise properly managed, as required by the Division in accordance with R645-301-529.400, R645-301-631.100, and R645-301-748. Permanent closure measures will be designed to prevent access to the mine workings by people, livestock, fish and wildlife, machinery and to keep acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground or surface waters.

Permanent closure and abandonment of water wells greater than 30 feet in depth will be in accordance with the requirements of "Administrative Rules for Water Well Drillers", State of Utah, Division of Water Rights or other applicable state regulations. Abandonment of wells will be performed by a licensed water well driller. The wells to be abandoned will be completely filled using neat cement grout, sand cement grout, unhydrated bentonite, or bentonite grout, or other materials approved by the Utah State Engineer's office. Alternatively, the well may be abandoned using a different procedure upon approval from the Utah State Engineer's office.

Abandonment materials will be introduced at the bottom of the well or required sealing interval and placed progressively upward to the top of the well. The casing will be severed a minimum of 2 feet below the ground surface. A minimum of 2 feet of compacted native material will be placed above the abandoned well upon completion.

Within 30 days of the completion of well abandonment procedures, a report will be submitted to the

State Engineer by the responsible licensed driller giving data related to the abandonment of the well. This shall include the name of the licensed driller or other person(s) performing abandonment procedures, name of well owner at the time of abandonment, the address or location of the well by section, township, and range, abandonment materials and equipment used, water right or file number covering the well, the final disposition of the well, and the date of completion.

Exploration holes and boreholes will be backfilled, plugged, cased, capped, sealed, or otherwise managed to prevent acid or toxic contamination of water resources and to minimize disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Exploration holes and boreholes will be managed to ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery.

If a water well is exposed by coal mining and reclamation operations, it will be permanently closed unless otherwise managed in a manner approved by the Division.

Boreholes will be backfilled to within 1 foot of the land surface with concrete or other materials approved by the Division as necessary to prevent contamination of groundwater or surface-water resources or to protect the prevailing hydrologic balance. The upper approximately 1 foot will be backfilled with native materials to facilitate reclamation (see Drawing 6-11). Exploration holes and boreholes that may be uncovered during mining and reclamation activities will be permanently closed unless approved for water monitoring or otherwise managed in a manner approved by the Division.

632 SUBSIDENCE MONITORING

The proposed mining in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit area does not include underground coal mining activities. This section is not applicable.

640 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

641 ALL EXPLORATION HOLES AND BOREHOLES

All exploration holes and boreholes will be permanently cased and sealed according to the requirements of R645-301-631.100 and R645-301-631.200.

Exploration holes and boreholes will be backfilled, plugged, cased, capped, sealed, or otherwise managed to prevent acid or toxic contamination of water resources and to minimize disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Exploration holes and boreholes will be managed to ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery.

If any exploration boreholes are to be used as monitoring wells or water wells, these will meet the provisions of R645-301-731

Wells constructed for monitoring groundwater conditions in the proposed Coal Hollow Mine permit and adjacent area, including exploration holes and boreholes used for water wells or monitoring wells, will be designed to prevent contamination of groundwater and surface-water resources and to protect the hydrologic balance. A diagram depicting typical monitoring well construction methods is shown in Drawing 7-11. Monitoring wells will include a protective hydraulic seal immediately above the screened interval, an annular seal plugging the borehole above the hydraulic seal to near the ground surface, and a concrete surface seal extending from the top of the hydraulic seal to the ground surface which is sloped away from the well casing to prevent the entrance of surface flows into the borehole area. Well casings will protrude above the ground surface a sufficient height so as to minimize the potential for the entrance of surface water or other material into the well. A steel surface protector with a locking cover will be installed at monitoring wells to prevent access by unauthorized personnel. Where there is potential for damage to monitoring wells, the wells will be protected through the use of barricades, fences, or other protective devices. These protective devices will be periodically inspected and maintained in good operating conditions. Monitoring wells will be locked in a closed position between uses.

When no longer needed for monitoring or other use approved by the Division upon a finding of no adverse environmental or health and safety effects, or unless approved for transfer as a water well under R645-301-731.100 through R645-301-731.522 and R645-301-731.800, each well will be capped, sealed, backfilled, or otherwise properly managed, as required by the Division in accordance with R645-301-529.400, R645-301-631.100, and R645-301-748. Permanent closure measures will be designed to prevent access to the mine workings by people, livestock, fish and wildlife, machinery and to keep acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground or surface waters.

Permanent closure and abandonment of water wells greater than 30 feet in depth will be in accordance with the requirements of "Administrative Rules for Water Well Drillers", State of Utah, Division of Water Rights or other applicable state regulations. Abandonment of wells will be performed by a licensed water well driller. The wells to be abandoned will be completely filled using neat cement grout, sand cement grout, unhydrated bentonite, or bentonite grout, or other materials approved by the Utah State Engineer's office. Alternatively, the well may be abandoned

using a different procedure upon approval from the Utah State Engineer's office.

Abandonment materials will be introduced at the bottom of the well or required sealing interval and placed progressively upward to the top of the well. The casing will be severed a minimum of 2 feet below the ground surface. A minimum of 2 feet of compacted native material will be placed above the abandoned well upon completion.

Within 30 days of the completion of well abandonment procedures, a report will be submitted to the State Engineer by the responsible licensed driller giving data related to the abandonment of the well. This shall include the name of the licensed driller or other person(s) performing abandonment procedures, name of well owner at the time of abandonment, the address or location of the well by section, township, and range, abandonment materials and equipment used, water right or file number covering the well, the final disposition of the well, and the date of completion.

Exploration holes and boreholes will be backfilled, plugged, cased, capped, sealed, or otherwise managed to prevent acid or toxic contamination of water resources and to minimize disturbance to the prevailing hydrologic balance. Exploration holes and boreholes will be managed to ensure the safety of people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery.

If a water well is exposed by coal mining and reclamation operations, it will be permanently closed unless otherwise managed in a manner approved by the Division.

Boreholes will be backfilled to within 1 foot of the land surface with concrete or other materials approved by the Division as necessary to prevent contamination of groundwater or surface-water resources or to protect the prevailing hydrologic balance. The upper approximately 1 foot will be backfilled with native materials to facilitate reclamation (see Drawing 6-11). Exploration holes and boreholes that may be uncovered during mining and reclamation activities will be permanently closed unless approved for water monitoring or otherwise managed in a manner approved by the Division.

642 MONUMENTS AND SURFACE MARKERS

All monuments and surface markers used as subsidence monitoring points and identified under R645-301-632.200 will be reclaimed in accordance with R645-301-521.210.

REFERENCES

Doelling, H.H., 1972, Alton Coal Field, *in* Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Southwestern Utah coal fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony, Monograph Series No. 1, 333 p.

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Tilton, T.L., 2001, Geologic map of the Alton Quadrangle, Kane County, Utah, Utah Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Publication 01-4, 7.5 minute geologic map, cross-sections, and text.

USDI. 1975. Resource and Potential Reclamation Evaluation, Alton Study Site, Alton Coal Field. U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake City, UT. 130 p.

Table 6-1 Drill hole information.

Drill hole number	Land coordinates UTM Z12 NAD 27 (easting, northing)	Collar elevation (feet)	Total depth of hole (feet)	Overburden thickness (feet)	Elevation of top of coal seam (feet)	Coal seam thickness, Smirl zone (feet)	Cored interval (feet)	Plugged interval (feet)
CH-01-05	4139959, 371167	6863	80	59.2	6803.8	13.8	40-80	0-80
CH-03-05	4139608, 370977	6855	63.5	46	6809	15	41-63.5	0-63.5
CH-05-05	4139608, 371651	6927	175	154.7	6772.3	16.8	40-175	0-175
CH-06-05	4138401, 371434	6853	83.5	62.3	6790.7	17.2	40-83.5	0-83.5
CH-7	4139552, 371358	6881.4	46	---	---	---	---	0-46
CH-8	4139015, 371348	6860.2	103	83.8	6776.4	17.2	---	0-103