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C0250005
Internal
#3773
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EVENT VIOLATION INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT

Company/Mine: Alton Coal Development, Coal Hollow Mine
Permit #: C/025/0005

NOV # 10079
Violation # 1 of 1

A. SERIOUSNESS

1. What type of event is applicable to the regulation cited? Refer to the DOGM reference list of event below and remember that **the event is NOT the same as the violation.** Mark and explain each event.

- a. Activity outside the approved permit area.
- b. Injury to the public (public safety).
- c. Damage to property.
- d. Conducting activities without appropriate approvals.
- e. Environmental harm.
- f. Water pollution.
- g. Loss of reclamation/revegetation potential.
- h. Reduced establishment, diverse and effective vegetative cover.
- i. No event occurred as a result of the violation.
- X j. Other.

Explanation: Topsoil loss due to wind or water erosion.

2. Has the event occurred? No

If yes, describe it. If no, what would cause it to occur and what is the probability of the event(s) occurring? (Likely)

Explanation: The weather had warmed to above freezing conditions during the inspection. However there was no evidence that topsoil had been transported off the permit area from the melting snow. The areas to which this notice of violation applied to include the temporary stockpile near Robinson Creek and the in place topsoil along Robinson Creek. There was no protection in either place to prevent topsoil from being transported off site. Additionally portions of the in place topsoil along the south east side of Robinson Creek had been covered with snow and sediment from plowing the disturbed area.

3. Did any damage occur as a result of the violation? No

If yes, describe the duration and extent of the damage or impact. How much damage may have occurred if the violation had not been discovered by a DOGM inspector? Describe this potential damage and whether or not it would extend off the disturbed and/or permit area.

Explanation: The continued periodic snow melt activities could result in deposition of topsoil off the permit area.

B. DEGREE OF FAULT (Check the statements which apply to the violation and discuss).

- Was the violation not the fault of the operator (due to vandalism or an act of God), explain. Remember that the permittee is considered responsible for the actions of all persons working on the mine site.

Explanation: _____

- Was the violation the result of not knowing about DOGM regulations, indifference to DOGM regulations or the result of lack of reasonable care.

Explanation: Recent precipitation events and snow storms had saturated the topsoil to some degree apparently making access to the material difficult. With that in mind a prudent operator should have been more aware of the need to adequately protect the topsoil.

- If the actual or potential environmental harm or harm to the public should have been evident to a careful operator, describe the situation and what, if anything, the operator did to correct it prior to being cited.

Explanation: _____

- Was the operator in violation of a specific permit condition?

Explanation: _____

- Has DOGM or OSM cited the violation in the past? If so, give the dates and the type of warning or enforcement action taken.

Explanation: _____

C. GOOD FAITH

1. In order to receive good faith for compliance with an NOV or CO, the violation must have been abated before the abatement deadline. If you think this applies, describe how rapid compliance was achieved (give date) and describe the measures the operator took to comply as rapidly as possible.

Explanation: _____

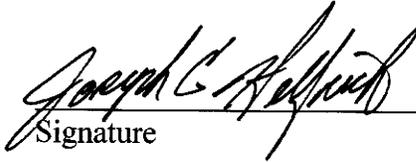
2. Explain whether or not the operator had the necessary resources on site to achieve compliance.

Explanation: The operator has the necessary resources to protect the topsoil. The operator has requested an extension to March 23rd to abate the violation.

3. Was the submission of plans prior to physical activity required by this NOV / CO? No If yes, explain.

Explanation: _____

Joseph C. Helfrich
Authorized Representative


Signature

March 14, 2011
Date

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