

OGMCOAL - Coal Hollow Mine Field Reconnaissance of Water Resources

From: April Abate
To: kurtvest@utah.gov
Date: 4/17/2012 4:00 PM
Subject: Coal Hollow Mine Field Reconnaissance of Water Resources
CC: OGMCOAL@utah.gov
Attachments: 20120417165318.pdf; Coal Hollow Mine Existing Boundary.pdf; April Abate.vcf

Hi Kurt,

I wanted to touch base with you in regard to an upcoming trip we are planning for the Coal Hollow mine just south of the town of Alton, Utah. Marc Stilson had indicated that you were the appropriate contact person from Water Rights for this region. I originally planned to schedule May 8 and 9th allowing for a two day trip if needed. If possible, I would like to propose we move it to the 9th and 10th. If you are not familiar with the future plans for the Coal Hollow mine, currently they are applying to acquire a BLM lease for an additional ~3,500 acres of coal to add to their existing permit on 658 acres (pretty significant expansion project).

As mentioned in the original email below, my agency's goal is to identify water resources critical for monitoring, which includes identifying any state-appropriated water rights adjacent to the existing mine in the areas of the proposed for expansion. Typically, our office works with Marc Stilson since most of our sites are in the Carbon/Emery area. Usually, I will send Marc's office a map of my area of interest and he will identify the state-appropriated water rights. Then we go out into the field and essentially ground truth the locations of those water rights that are on the map and try to determine if they are accurate and still in use. I was hoping that your office could help me out with that as well, which is why I feel it is important to have a member of your staff present on this trip.

I have attached two maps of the area we are interested in. One shows the current permit boundary and the other shows the permit boundary and the BLM coal areas identified in yellow. I was hoping that your office could do a search on the water rights in the region so that we will have some information to direct our efforts to when we are out in the field. I left a message for you today but I guess you are out in the field. Please give me a call when you get this message. I look forward to talking to you about the project in more detail.

Regards,

April

April A. Abate

Environmental Scientist III

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Starting Tuesday, September 6, 2011, our agency hours will be

8am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

>>> Marc Stilson 3/6/2012 8:25 AM >>>

April,

I sent this to Kurt Vest, our Regional Engineer in Cedar City. He indicated he would like to go out on this field

recon. with you and will be contacting you directly. Thanks.

Marc Stilson, P.E.
Division of Water Rights
Regional Engineer, Southeastern Region
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P.O. Box 718
Price, UT 84501
(435) 613-3750
www.marcstilson@utah.gov

>>> April Abate 3/5/2012 6:51 AM >>>
It is just south of the town of Alton, Utah.

April A. Abate

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>>> Marc Stilson 3/2/2012 2:25 PM >>>
April,

Where is this mine located??

>>> April Abate 3/1/2012 9:48 AM >>>
Hi Everyone,

I would like to schedule a field trip to the area surrounding the Coal Hollow mine that is proposed for expansion. The purpose of this trip is to bring together several of the stakeholders to identify and inventory the critical water resources in the area so that a protection plan can be formulated should a decision to lease be made by the BLM.

The focus will be to evaluate any springs or seeps that have been tied to a state water right and verify the accuracy of the water right such as its location and flow volume. We will also examine all ephemeral, perennial and intermittent drainages in the area, areas identified as probably Alluvial Valley Floors, and any riparian vegetation habitat.

Please let me know if these dates will fit into your schedule. Alternatively, we could schedule the trip for the following week: May 15, 16th.

Any additional feedback on the proposed agenda is welcome.

Sincerely,

April Abate

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Map 1.2. Alton Coal Tract configuration and land ownership under Alternative B (Proposed Action).



