

C/025/005 In Mining

#4444



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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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Division Director

January 7, 2014

Dr. Mike Domeier
Utah State Soil Scientist, NRCS
Wallace F. Bennett Bldg.
125 S. State Street
SLC, UT 84138-1100

RE: Prime Farmland Determination, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Mine Boundary Change, C/025/0005, Task ID #4444.

Hello Dr. Domeier:

The Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOG M) has received an application to add 85 acres to the Coal Hollow mine, just east of the existing permit area, near Alton, Utah. The addition to the permit area is in T. 39 S., R. 5 W. Section 29. DOGM is required by law (Utah coal mining rule R645-302-313) to collaborate with the NRCS concerning the nature and extent of the required prime farmland evaluation for the additional area. Corey Meier, formerly with your Cedar City office, provided a prime farmland determination dated October 30, 2006 for the land currently within the Coal Hollow mine permit area. In that letter, he stated the soils did not qualify as Prime Farmland, but could classify as Soils of Statewide Importance, if irrigated.

I have attached a disc with an exhibit and drawings of the new mine area. The location of the additional area is shown on the Drawing 1-1. The land is privately held by the Dame Family Trust as shown on Dwg 1-3. A soil survey map of the mining area (Dwg 2-1), shows soil map unit boundaries which will be extended to the east into the new permit area. Soil pit locations shown on the map were identified thusly: SP-52 is Aquic Calciustept; SP-53 is Aeric Epiaquept; SP-54 is Fluvaquentic Epiaquept; and SP-55 is Aridic Calciustept. The soil and hydrologic surveys that were provided with the Mining and Reclamation Plan document an area of artesian springs (Dwg 7-3) and a series of man-made ponds (Dwg 7-7), and a shallow water table supporting grazing land (Exhibit. 4-1).

I would like to coordinate a reconnaissance site visit with your staff in 2014, as soon as weather permits. In the mean time, if you would like to discuss the above information or require further details, please call me at 435-613-3733.

Regards,

Priscilla Burton, CPSSc
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure
cc: Aaron Haddock, DOGM/SLC, w/o
Kirk Nichols, ACD, w/o

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2014

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

