OGMCOAL DNR < ogmcoal@utah.gov>

Re: Farmland Determination Coal Hollow Mine Task 4502

1 message

Priscilla Burton < priscillaburton@utah.gov> Tue, Jan 28, 2014 at 12:15 PM
To: "Domeier, Michael - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT" <Mike.Domeier@ut.usda.gov>, OGMCOAL DNR <ogmcoal@utah.gov>
Cc: knicholes@altoncoal.com

Mike,
I will pass this along to Alton Coal Development, LLC for their records and for inclusion in the Mining and Reclamation Plan. Plans for mining the area are still being developed. Thank you for your time in evaluating the area.

Priscilla Burton, CPSSc
Environmental Scientist
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
Coal Program/Price Field Office
319 North Carbonville Rd., Ste C
Price, Utah 84501

435-613-3733

On Tue, Jan 28, 2014 at 11:31 AM, Domeier, Michael - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <Mike.Domeier@ut.usda.gov> wrote:

> Priscilla,
>
> Attached is the letter and form AD-1006 for Important Farmland Determination related to the Alton Coal Mine expansion. Please email or call if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks.
>
> Mike Domeier
>
> Utah NRCS - State Soil Scientist
>
> 801-524-4574 (work)
>
> 801-631-0713 (cell)
>
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Priscilla Burton, CPSSc

Environmental Scientist

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining

319 North Carbonville Rd., Ste C

Price, UT 84501

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Ms. Burton,

We received your request for Prime Farmland information on January 7, 2014 for the Alton Coal Mine Expansion.

About 80 acres of the area of interest meets the definition of "Statewide Important Farmland, if irrigated". It is in map unit "1103-Sili-Sidshow-Gypsic Haplustepts complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes". The draft soil survey for this area has been completed since the original request for a determination was made in 2006. The soil survey is scheduled to be published to the WEB Soil Survey in late 2014.

An AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form is attached.

According to the Farmland Protection Policy Act, it is the responsibility of the Federal agency that is funding a project to report the number of acres of farmland actually converted. At the end of the fiscal year, NRCS compiles a report on the acres of farmland proposed for conversion and the acres actually converted. At your convenience please provide us the number of acres actually converted for this project.

Please let us know if there are other needs.

Sincerely,

Michael Domeier

Michael Domeier

USDA NRCS State Soil Scientist

125 S. State St. Rm. 4010

Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

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FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	Date Of Land Evaluation Request 1/7/14
Name Of Project Alton Coal Development	Federal Agency Involved Not Applicable - Utah Div of Oil, Gas, Mining
Proposed Land Use Mine	County And State Kane County, Utah
PART II *(To be completed by NRCS)*	Date Request Received By NRCS 1/10/14

Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? *(If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).*	Yes ☑	No ☐	Acres Irrigated 3,433	Average Farm Size 1,190
Major Crop*(s)* Alfalfa	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: 13452 % 1		Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: NA %	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used LESA	Name Of Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS 1/28/14	

PART III *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				
C. Total Acres In Site	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART IV *(To be completed by NRCS)* Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	80.0			
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.0			
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	0.0			
PART V *(To be completed by NRCS)* Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted *(Scale of 0 to 100 Points)*	0	0	0	0

PART VI *(To be completed by Federal Agency)* Site Assessment Criteria *(These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b)*	Maximum Points				
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0
PART VII *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*					
Relative Value Of Farmland *(From Part V)*	100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment *(From Part VI above or a local site assessment)*	160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS *(Total of above 2 lines)*	260	0	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes ☐ No ☒

Reason For Selection:

Note that part IV.C. Percentage of Farmland of Local Govt. Unit to be Converted is about .6 percent; the form rounds down to 0.0.

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

Step 1 – Federal agencies involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form.

Step 2 – Originator will send copies A, B and C together with maps indicating locations of site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local field office and retain copy D for their files. (Note: NRCS has a field office in most counties in the U.S. The field office is usually located in the county seat. A list of field office locations are available from the NRCS State Conservationist in each state).

Step 3 – NRCS will, within 45 calendar days after receipt of form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland.

Step '4 – In cases where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS field offices will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.

Step 5 – NRCS will return copy A and B of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project. (Copy C will be retained for NRCS records).

Step 6 – The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form.

Step 7 – The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA and the agency's internal policies.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

Part I: In completing the "County And State" questions list all the local governments that are responsible for local land controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: In completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them.

2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI if a local site assessment is used.

Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5 (b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type projects such as transportation, powerline and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighed zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points, and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.

Individual Federal agencies at the national level, may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown in the FPPA rule. In all cases where other weights are assigned relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total weight points at 160.

In rating alternative sites, Federal agencies shall consider each of the criteria and assign points within the limits established in the FPPA rule. Sites most suitable for protection under these criteria will receive the highest total scores, and sites least suitable, the lowest scores.

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, adjust the site assessment points to a base of 160. Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site "A."}$$