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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

March 10, 2014

Kirk Nicholes, Resident Agent  
Alton Coal Development, LLC  
463 North 100 West, Suite 1  
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Subject: Deficiency in Annual Sage Grouse Report, Task ID #4504, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

The Division has reviewed your 2013 Sage Grouse Report and found that there are some deficiencies in the report that still need to be addressed. A copy of the Analysis and Findings is enclosed which outlines the problems with the report. The name of the reviewer is attached so that you can communicate directly with the staff. Please correct the report and resubmit it by no later than March 28, 2014.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock  
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs  
Enclosure  
O:\025005.COL\WG4504\Sage Grouse Report.doc



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## Technical Analysis and Findings

### Utah Coal Regulatory Program

**PID:** C0250005  
**TaskID:** 4504  
**Mine Name:** COAL HOLLOW  
**Title:** ADDITION OF ANNUAL SAGE GROUSE REPORT

#### Operation Plan

#### Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Plan

##### *Deficiencies Details:*

The deficiencies in the 2013 sage-grouse progress are listed as follows:

13 of the 37 observations noted in Table 1 do not include the time of observation. Time of observation is critical to understanding the behavior of the sage-grouse during their life cycle in context of mining -wildlife conflicts.

Lek Monitoring, page 10, Paragraph 1 indicates that there were no reports of birds displaying at the original lek in 2013. However DWR biologist Dustin Schaible reported seeing 3 birds on the Lek East of the mine in 2013. The report needs to include this lek count information.

Habitat Mitigation, Page 16, Juniper Removal, the report needs to include written verification from the surface management agency (BLM) that ""This treatment included removal of trees in all size classes"".

Predator Control Activities, Page 17, the report needs to include a map showing the locations of the distribution of the eggs and where the coyotes were either denned or killed.

jhefric