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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

June 13, 2014

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

Subject: Change of Mining Sequence, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005, Task ID #4591

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

The Division has reviewed your application at the Coal Hollow Mine. The Division has identified deficiencies that must be addressed before final approval can be granted. The deficiencies are listed as an attachment to this letter.

The deficiencies authors are identified so that your staff can communicate directly with that individual should questions arise. The plans as submitted are denied. Please resubmit the entire application.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5350.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs
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Technical Analysis and Findings
Utah Coal Regulatory Program

PID: C0250005
TaskID: 4591
Mine Name: COAL HOLLOW
Title: CHANGE OF MINING SEQUENCE

Operation Plan

Topsoil and Subsoil

Deficiencies Details:

R645-301-244.100, Pit 10 was stripped of topsoil in 2013 but will not be mined. Dwg 5-38 shows the area of Pit 10 being reclaimed in 2016. The plan should address interim stabilization of the Pit 10 surface.

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Maps Affected Area

Deficiencies Details:

R645-301-121.200, Drawing 5-10A shows the coal recovery by mining method. Two areas colored (red and purple) on this map will have no coal recovery. The color designations should be explained in the legend on this map. 2) Dwg 5-16A shows the overburden removal sequence. The map shows in the legend that 1,149,000 yd3 will be moved in 2016, although there is no corresponding colored area on the map. Likely, this additional overburden will come from the Excess Spoil pile to be used as fill in Pit 9. Please note the location of the 2016 overburden on Dwg 5-16A. 3) The legend on Dwg 5-38A indicates there are 301 acres Total Disturbed area, but the Estimated Reclamation Schedule tallies 332 acres Total and Reclaimed acres. Please explain the distinction.

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Reclamation Plan

Backfill and Grading General

Deficiencies Details:

Findings:
The Task ID # 4591 application is deficient in that it does not meet the requirements of R645-301-553 for the Pit 9 mining area as shown on the Task ID # 4591 / Drawing 5-10A.
Therefore in accordance with the requirements of:

R645-301-553, the Permittee should provide the documentation for the leasing of the adjacent Federal coal reserves to provide adequate justification for the Division to approve the requested variance.

phess