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Alton Coal North Lease Application ACR

Dana Dean <danadean@utah.gov>

Wed, Jul 15, 2015 at 4:49 PM

To: Bob Nead <blbnead@altoncoal.com>, Denise Dragoo <ddragoo@swlaw.com>, John Baza <johnbaza@utah.gov>, Steve Alder <stevealder@utah.gov>, Michael Noel <mikenoel@le.utah.gov>, Mike Styler <mikestyler@utah.gov>, Daron Haddock <daronhaddock@utah.gov>, Suzanne Steab <suzannesteab@utah.gov>

Hello All,

We have found the application for the North Lease permit to be administratively complete. We may now move forward with public notice and the technical review.

Thank you,
Dana

Dana Dean, P.E.
Associate Director - Mining
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

July 15, 2015

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

Subject: Determination of Administrative Completeness for the North Private Lease, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Task ID #4942, C/025/0005

Dear Mr. Nicoles:

The Division has completed a review of the information you submitted on June 22, 2015. This application is considered to be administratively complete. A copy of our review worksheet is enclosed for your information and records.

A technical review of your plan has been initiated. Technical deficiencies will be forwarded to you as reviews are completed. The Division will also coordinate with other agencies and incorporate their comments into our review process. Issues raised will need to be resolved prior to permit issuance.

At this time you should publish a Notice of Complete Application for adding the North Private Lease to the Coal Hollow Mine as required by R645-300-121. A copy of the publication affidavit should be sent to the Division as soon as it is available. You should also insure that a copy of the application is on file at the appropriate County Courthouse. The Division will complete a technical analysis, which must find that your application is technically complete. We anticipate additional information may be necessary to make your application technically complete and look forward to working with you throughout the process.

Please call if you have any questions. Thank you for your help in the permitting process.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

DRH/sqs

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLETENESS REVIEW WORKSHEET
(R645-100)**

DATE: July 15th, 2015

REVIEWER(S): Suzanne Steab, Keenan Storrar, Daron Haddock, Priscilla Burton, Cheryl Parker, Joe Helfrich

APPLICANT: Alton Coal Development, LLC

MINE NAME: Coal Hollow **FILE NO.:** Task ID #4942

"Administratively Complete Application" means an application for permit approval or approval for coal exploration, where required, which the Division determines to contain information addressing each application requirement of the State Program and to contain all information necessary to initiate processing and public review.

Directions: The categories listed below correspond to the minimum requirements for information necessary to initiate processing and public review. If a category is checked the Applicant has met the **Completeness** requirement for that category. If a category is not checked, the **Completeness** requirements have not been met. If a category is **Not Applicable**, enter **NA** in check box. The comments column will identify the deficiency and what is necessary to correct it.

			Comments
301-112	Identification of Interests	<u>X</u>	
100	Applicant's Business Structure	<u>X</u>	
210	Applicant's Name/Address/Phone	<u>X</u>	
220	Resident Agent's Name/Address/Phone	<u>X</u>	
230	Name/Address/Phone of AML Fees Payer	<u>X</u>	
300	Corporate Structure & Ownership	<u>X</u>	No revision included with this application
400	Identify Other Mining Operations in US	<u>X</u>	
500	Surface & Mineral Ownership	<u>X</u>	
600	Ownership Contiguous to Permit	<u>X</u>	
700	MSHA Numbers	<u>X</u>	
800	Interest in Contiguous Lands	<u>X</u>	

301-113	Violation Information	<u>X</u>	An AVS Evaluation Report was generated on 7/7/15. No suspensions, revocations, or unabated violations were reported.
100	Suspension or Revocation Information	<u>X</u>	
300	List of Violations - 3 Previous Years	<u>X</u>	
301-114	Right of Entry	<u>X</u>	
301-115	Status of Unsuitability Claims	<u>X</u>	
301-116	Permit Term	<u>X</u>	
301-117	Insurance	<u>X</u>	No change to existing.
	Proof of Publication	<u>X</u>	Proposed Publication included. Affidavit required upon completion of notice.
	Facilities and Structures Used in Common	<u>X</u>	
301-118	Filing Fee	<u>NA</u>	
301-123	Notarized Signature of Responsible Official	<u>X</u>	
301-130	Information Collection: Technical Data Accompanied by Names of Persons or Organizations that Collected and Analyzed the Data - Dates of Collections - and Analysis of the Data and Description of the Methodology Used to Collect and Analyze Data	<u>X</u>	

301-200	Soils	<u>X</u>	
211	Description of Pre-mining Soil Resources	<u>X</u>	
221	Prime Farmland Investigation	<u>X</u>	
222	Soil Survey	<u>X</u>	
224	Substitute Topsoil Info (When Proposed)	<u>X</u>	
230	Operation Plan Topsoil Handling/Removal/Storage	<u>X</u>	
240	Reclamation Plan Soil Redistribution/Stabilization	<u>X</u>	

301-300	Biology	<u>X</u>	
320	Vegetation Information	<u>X</u>	Vegetation information for the North Private Lease application is included in "Volume 12, Supplemental Report, Vegetation & Wildlife Habitat of the North Private Lease Area". The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.
322	Fish and Wildlife Information	<u>X</u>	The Threatened and Endangered plant and Animal species list found in Table 45 (Volume 12) has been updated to include the Yellow billed cuckoo, Meager Camisona and the Northern Leopard Frog. This list was compiled using known species occurrences and species observations from the Utah Natural Heritage Program's Biodiversity Tracking and Conservation System (BIOTICS) and other federally listed species likely occur in Utah Counties. This list includes both current and historic records. The list was accessed on-line June 15, 2015. Its last update was dated January 12, 2012. Commitments have been made for additional studies and field surveys (when applicable) on that table. The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.
323	Maps/Photos Vegetation-Fish-Wildlife Areas	<u>X</u>	Critical habitat maps for the Yellow billed cuckoo, Meager Camisona and the Northern Leopard Frog have been added as attachments to Table 45 (Volume 12). The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.

330	Operation Plan Vegetation-Fish-Wildlife Protection	<u>X</u> The fish and wildlife protection and enhancement plan will need to include the following: A description of how the proposed mitigation of 1000 acres of accessible sage grouse habitat will be completed prior to obtaining a permit to commence mining activities in the Private North lease area and ; A commitment to provide funding annually for the purchase of two GPS collars or \$8,000 whichever is greater. However there is enough information in the current application for the Division to initiate processing and public comment.
341	Reclamation Plan for Revegetation	<u>X</u> The existing seed mixtures and reclamation techniques in the MRP (Chapter 3, Section 3.41) are also applicable in the North Private lease area. For the additional plant communities that were found and described in the Vegetation & Wildlife Habitat of the North Private Lease Area {Volume 12}, seed mixtures were added to the MRP {Chapter 3, Section 3.41} in the first submittal. New reference areas and revegetation success standards for the additional plant communities of the North Private Lease are proposed in the DISCUSSION section {Volume 12}. The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.
342	Fish & Wildlife Plan for Reclamation Phase	<u>X</u> As with the current Coal Hollow MRP, the North Private Lease area of the Coal Hollow Mine contains reclamation seed mixes to that habitat enhancement for wildlife. An additional seed mix for reclamation of wetland habitat has been added for the North Private Lease. The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.

301-400	Land Use and Air Quality	<u>X</u> Modification of the Air Approval Order will parallel the revision process of the MRP. This submittal has been updated with the most current coordination efforts UBAQ. Currently in the process of modifying the Approval Order, modeling will be completed for the North Private Lease. This will determine where monitors will be located. Also, a fugitive dust control plan has been developed for the North Private Lease and is included as Appendix 4-6. The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.
411	Pre-Mining Land Use Information (Includes Cultural Resources)	<u>X</u> A data recovery plan has been included in the application. The information is adequate to initiate processing and public review.

412	Post-Mining Land Use Information	<u>X</u>	
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301-500	Engineering	<u>X</u>	The Permit application appears to address the relevant engineering R645-301-500 rules, see discussion below
510 520	General Description of Operation Plan (Maps, Locations, Cross-Sections, Narrative, Descriptions & Calculations)	<u>X</u>	The Permit contains the proposed coal mining and reclamation operation with attendant maps, plans, and cross sections in Drawings 5-45 through 5-74. The application includes the methods and calculations to achieve compliance in section 521.140 discussion and Appendices 5-11 through 5-12. All drawings 5-56 through 5-72 for the North Lease have the required certification detailing the relevant mine workings, surface facilities, surface configuration, hydrology, geologic cross sections, plans and engineering designs, excess spoil, coal mine waste, impoundments, and roads for requirements R645-301-512. The Permit contains text detailing MSHA compliance with relevant MSHA approvals for impoundments and capping openings for R645-301-513. Text is present describing how inspections will be conducted at the stated R645-301-514 times on excess spoil, drainage systems, refuse piles, and impoundments. The Permit includes text detailing the reporting and emergency procedures for slides, impoundments, and temporary cessation for R645-301-515.521 Operation plan includes a plan with maps, cross sections, narrative, descriptions, and calculations indication how the relevant requirements are met. The application describes and identifies lands subject to coal mining and reclamation operations over the estimated life of the operations and the size, sequence, and timing of subareas for which it is anticipated in Drawings 5-1 through 5-75. Text was added to section 521.110-521.121 detailing no previous mining operations or buildings within 1,000 feet of the North Lease Area. Text was added to section 521.122 to address the additional surface and subsurface man made features that existing within the North Lease Permit area. Section 521.133.2 details how two class B public roads are located within 100 feet of the permit areas on Drawing 5-3 and 5-47. Drawings 5-22E, 5-22F, 5-22H, 5-59 through 5-61 shows the reestablishing details of road K3900 and K3100. The Permit appears to address the requirements of R645-301-500 through -521.
522	Coal Recovery Description	<u>X</u>	Section was updated to reflect that addition of the North Lease mining operations. The Permit appears to address the requirements of R645-301-522.

523	Mining Methods	<u>X</u>	Section R645-301-533 appears to be addressed within the application with the production of coal totals updated and appears to discuss the mining methods for the North Lease.
524	Blasting and Explosives Plan	<u>X</u>	Section 524 was edited to include text for the North Lease and expected blasting operation to meet R645-301-524 requirements. The Permit appears to address blasting operations as required in R645-301-524.
525	Subsidence Control Plan	<u>X</u>	NA
526	Mine Facilities Description (Narrative, Plans, Maps) Including Existing Structures & Support Facilities	<u>X</u>	Section 526 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease main and support facilities and relevant Drawings 5-56 through 5-69. The Permit appears to address main and support facilities descriptions as required in R645-301-526.
527	Transportation Facilities (Including Plans & Maps)	<u>X</u>	Section 527 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease two primary haul roads and relocation of two roads, Kane County Road K3900 and Alton Coal Mine Road K3100. Relevant descriptions and detailed maps are included in the application. The Permit appears to address transportation as required in R645-301-527.
528	Coal Mine Waste Plans (Description & Designs)	<u>X</u>	Section 528 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease handling of overburden and temporary excess spoil pile. A new Appendix 5-11 and 5-12 were included in the application detailing the relevant calculations and slope stability measurements. The Permit appears to address overburden and excess spoil handling as required by R645-301-528.
529	Management of Mine Openings (Design)	<u>X</u>	NA
531	General Plans for Structures	<u>X</u>	Sections 530 and 531 of the application were updated to reference the North Lease operations and design criteria. Drawings 5-65 through 5-67 with calculations and supporting text were included in Appendix 5-12 of the application. The Permit appears to address the North lease operations and design criteria required by R645-301-530 and -531.

532	Sediment Control	<u>X</u>	Section 532 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease sediment controls that include diversion ditches and sediment ponds. Drawings 5-3 and 5-64 through 5-69 with calculations and supporting text were included in Appendix 5-12 of the application. The Permit appears to address the North lease operations and design criteria required by R645-301-532.
533	Impoundments	<u>X</u>	Section 533 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease impoundments. Appendix 5-11 of the application was included to detail the calculations for said impoundments for the North Lease. The Permit appears to address the North lease operations and design criteria required by R645-301-533.
301-534	Roads (Plans, Drawings, Designs, & Specifications)	<u>X</u>	Section 534 of the application was updated to reference the operation of two primary haul roads in the North Lease area with relevant text and drawings 5-71 and 5-73. The Permit appears to address the North lease roads criteria required by R645-301-534.
535	Spoil	<u>X</u>	Section 535 of the application was updated to reference the temporary excess spoil pile that will be located in the North Lease area. Analysis of the spoil pile as required by R645-301-535 can be found in Appendix 5-11 and 5-12. The Permit appears to address the North lease temporary excess spoil pile as required by R645-301-535.
536	Coal Mine Waste	<u>X</u>	NA no coal mine waste will be generated at the site.
537	Regraded Slopes	<u>X</u>	Text was updated under section 537.200 of the application to address the regrading of underground fill and spoils for the southern lease.
540 541-542	Reclamation Narrative, Maps and Plans	<u>X</u>	Sections 540 through 542 of the application were updated to reference the North Lease reclamation criteria. Drawings 5-37, 5-71, 5-72, and 5-73 with calculations and supporting text were included in the application. The Permit appears to address the North lease reclamation design criteria required by R645-301-540 through -542.
551	Casing and Sealing Underground Openings	X	NA no new wells will be drilled.

553	Backfilling and Grading Description	<u>X</u>	Section 553 of the application was updated to reference the North Lease backfill operations as part of the required reclamation. The application included updated overburden tables and Drawings 5-37, 5-71, 5-72, and 5-73 with calculations and supporting text were included in the application. The Permit appears to address the North lease backfilling criteria required by R645-301-553.
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301-600	Geology	<u>X</u>	See discussion below.
621	Description of Geology (Permit & Adjacent Area)	<u>X</u>	Chapter 6 has been updated to describe the Geology of the North Private Lease Area. Appendix 6-2 provides an overburden assessment on 8 drill holes located throughout the North Private lease.
622	Geologic Cross-Sections, Maps, and Plans	<u>X</u>	Information from a 2012 drilling program in the North Private Lease is found in Appendix 7-16. Cross-section showing stratigraphic relationships and overburden thicknesses are found in Appendix 7-16. A geologic map of the North Private lease area is found as Figure 6 in Appendix 7-16.
630	Plans for Casing and Sealing Holes	<u>X</u>	The plans for Casing and Sealing of holes is located in the original MRP Section 631. No changes have been proposed with this application.

301-700	Hydrology	<u>X</u>	See discussion below
721	Description of Hydrologic Resources (Permit and Adjacent Area)	<u>X</u>	The application provides a description of the premining hydrologic resources
722	Cross-Sections and Maps Subsurface Water - Surface Water - Monitoring Stations - Wells	<u>X</u>	722.200: Surface water bodies are shown in multiple figures 722.300: Monitoring site details are provided 722.400: Location and well depth is given in Table 3 722.500: The application provides cross-sections
723	Sampling and Analysis	<u>X</u>	The application provides a narrative of sampling and analysis procedures

724	Baseline Information Ground Water - Surface Water - Geology - Climatological & Supplemental; If Needed	<u>X</u>	724.100: The application provides ownership maps and a narrative with calculations regarding ground water and hydrogeology 724.200: The application provides baseline information on surface water 724.300: Geologic data are provided 724.400: Climate data are provided in the application 724.700: The application provides an AVF Determination report for R645-302-321. 725: The application discusses hydrologic and geologic information for the cumulative hydrologic impacts 727: The application provides a discussion on alternative water sources.
728	PHC Determination	<u>X</u>	The application includes a PHC in Appendix 7-16
730	General Operation Plan Minimize Disturbance to Hydrologic Balance & Compliance with Clean Water Act	<u>X</u>	See discussion below
731	Ground and Surface Water Protection	<u>X</u>	731.110 - .112: The application provides a brief narrative on handling earth materials. 731.200: The application provides a water monitoring plan. 731.300: The applications provides a discussion of Acid- and Toxic-Forming Materials 731.400: The application provides a narrative on the transfer of wells. 731.600: The application provides a narrative and commitments regarding the stream buffer zone. 731.700: The application provides maps, cross-sections and a descriptions of the impoundments 731.800: The application provides a discussion on water rights and replacement
732	Sediment Control Measures	<u>X</u>	732.200: The application provides maps and narratives of sediment ponds. 732.300: The application provides maps of diversions. 733: The application provides maps, narratives and cross-sections of impoundments. 734, 735, 736, 738: The application addresses these rules on discharge structures, disposal of excess spoil, coal mine waste, and casing and sealing of wells
301-740	Plans and Designs Operation and Reclamation Plan Sediment Control Measures	<u>X</u>	See discussion below

	Siltation Structures	<u>X</u>	742.110: The application discusses sediment control measures for diversions and sediment impoundments. The application provides maps and narratives to prevent additional contributions of suspended solids to stream flow.
	Sediment Ponds	<u>X</u>	742.220: There are sediment pond designs for the North Lease area. Sizing of impoundments and diversions are given in Appendix 5-12.
	Other Treatment Facilities	<u>X</u>	742.230: The application provides multiple discussions on Other Treatment Facilities.
	Diversions	<u>X</u>	742.300: The application includes designs for diversions in the North Private Lease area.
	Road Drainage	<u>X</u>	742.400: The application provides a discussion on Road Drainage.
	Impoundments	<u>X</u>	743: The application provides impoundment drawings and narratives.
	Discharge Structures	<u>X</u>	744: The application provides a narrative on discharge structures.
	Disposal of Excess Spoil	<u>X</u>	745: The application provides a discussion the handling and disposal of excess spoil.
	Coal Mine Waste	<u>X</u>	746: The application provides a narrative on coal mine waste.
	Disposal of Non-Coal Mine Waste	<u>X</u>	747: The application provides a narrative on Disposal of Non-coal Waste.
	Casing and Sealing of Wells	<u>X</u>	748: The application provides a narrative on Casing and Sealing of Wells

301-800	Bonding and Insurance	<u>X</u>	See Discussion below
820	Applicant Have Adequate Bond at Permit Issuance	<u>X</u>	Upon permit approval, adequate bond for the North Lease will be in place before permit issuance.
830	Bond Estimate and Calculations Provided	<u>X</u>	Section 830 of the application was updated to reference the operation and bonding adjustments to include the North Lease area with relevant text and drawings. The Permit appears to address the North lease bonding criteria required by R645-301-800.
890	Certificate of Insurance Provided	<u>X</u>	On file with Division.

302-200	Special Categories of Mining	<u>X</u>	
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210	Experimental Practices Mining	<u>NA</u>	
220	Mountaintop Removal Mining	<u>NA</u>	
230	Steep Slope Mining	<u>NA</u>	
240	Auger Mining	<u>X</u>	The application provides a narrative regarding auger mining.
250	In Situ Processing Activities	<u>NA</u>	

302-260	Coal Processing Plants (Not Located Within Permit Area of Mine)	<u>NA</u>	
270	Variances From Approximate Original Contour Restoration Requirements	<u>NA</u>	
280	Variances for Delay in Contemporaneous Reclamation Requirement in Combined Surface and Underground Coal Mining Activities	<u>NA</u>	
290	Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP)	<u>NA</u>	

302-300	Special Areas of Mining	<u>X</u>	see AVF below
301	Prime Farmland	<u>X</u>	R645-302-314: Prime farmland has been identified within the proposed permit area.
302	Alluvial Valley Floors	<u>X</u>	R645-302-320: The application provides an Alluvial Valley Floor Determination.

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