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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

September 3, 2015

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

Subject: Annual Sage Grouse Report, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005, Task ID #4962

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

The Division has reviewed your application. 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) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs

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Technical Analysis and Findings

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

PID: C0250005
TaskID: 4962
Mine Name: COAL HOLLOW
Title: ANNUAL SAGE GROUSE REPORT

Operation Plan

Fish and Wildlife Protection and Enhancement Plan

Deficiencies Details:

The information in the 2014 annual sage grouse report in its present form is not adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations. Prior to approval the following information is required in accordance with R645-301-322.100 and 301-333;

The information will need to be included in the Partnership and Collaboration section of the 2014 annual Sage Grouse report:

ACD will need to provide verification in writing that the appropriate amount of funding has been provided to the Utah State University extension sage grouse research program under the direction of Dr. Nicki Frye for three GPS collars for the 2015 trapping season (July 15, 2015-February 28th, 2016).

ACD will need to include the following commitments in the Partnership and Collaboration section of the 2014 and subsequent reports:

ACD will provide the requisite amount of funding annually for one GPS collar that will be used to support the Utah State University extension sage grouse research program under the direction of Dr. Nicki Frye. Funding for this collar and any additional collars will be provided annually by no later than April 30 of the calendar year.

ACD will assist the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) by providing the requisite amount of funding annually for one aerial survey to be conducted during the sage grouse breeding season. That dollar amount may also be used to support Dr. Frye's monitoring and research program with concurrence from Dr. Frye, DWR and DOGM. Copies of invoices and payments will be sent to DOGM within 30 days of notification.

jhelfric