



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
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

February 22, 2016

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

Subject: Fine Payment Required for NOV #21158, Alton Coal Development, LLC, Coal Hollow Mine, Task ID #4985

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

A review of records of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining shows that the fine in the amount of \$1,210 for the referenced violation NOV#21158 has not yet been paid. The final assessment was sent November 10, 2015 (copy enclosed). The timeframe to appeal either the fact of this violation or the amount of the assessed fine has lapsed, and the amount assessed is considered final.

Please remit the total payment by March 28, 2016. If you believe the Division records are in error and that you have paid this fine, please provide evidence of the payment, such as a copy of the cancelled check, before the due date.

Failure to pay the assessed fine may result in interest being charged at the rate established quarterly by the U.S. Department of the Treasury or referring the amount due to the Utah Attorney General for appropriate collection action.

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\WG4985 NOV#21158\Final Payment Required.doc



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November 10, 2015

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT
7012 3460 0002 9559 6656

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

Subject: Proposed Assessment for State Violation No. #21158, Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005,
Task ID #4985

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

The undersigned has been appointed by the Division of Oil, Gas & Mining as the Assessment Officer for assessing penalties under R645-401.

Enclosed is the proposed civil penalty assessment for the referenced violation. The violation was issued by Division Inspector, Priscilla Burton, on September 22, 2015. Rule R645-401-600 et. seq. has been utilized to formulate the proposed penalty. By these rules, any written information which was submitted by you or your agent within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this Notice of Violation has been considered in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of penalty.

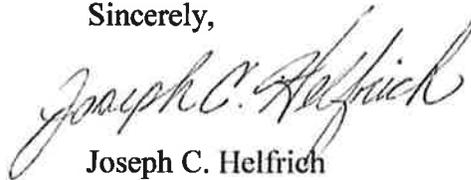
Under R645-401-700, there are two informal appeal options available to you:

1. If you wish to informally appeal the fact of this violation, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference regarding the proposed penalty.

2. If you wish to review the proposed penalty assessment, you should file a written request for an Assessment Conference within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. If you are also requesting a review of the fact of violation, as noted in paragraph 1, the Assessment Conference will be scheduled immediately following that review.

If a timely request for review is not made, the fact of violation will stand, the proposed penalty(ies) will become final, and the penalty(ies) will be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the proposed assessment. Please remit payment to the Division, mail c/o Suzanne Steab.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Helfrich
Assessment Officer

Enclosure

cc: Sheri Sasaki, DOGM
Suzanne Steab, DOGM

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**WORKSHEET FOR ASSESSMENT OF PENALTIES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & MINING**

COMPANY / MINE Coal Hollow Mine

PERMIT C/025/0005 NOV / CO # N 21158 VIOLATION 1 of 1

ASSESSMENT DATE November 10, 2015

ASSESSMENT OFFICER Joseph C. Helfrich

I. HISTORY (Max. 25 pts.)

A. Are there previous violations, which are not pending or vacated, which fall one (1) year of today=s date?

| PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS | EFFECTIVE DATE | POINTS |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <u>NOV #16150</u> | <u>April 8, 2015</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>NOV #18150</u> | <u>April 28, 2015</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>NOV #20153</u> | <u>July 7, 2015</u> | <u>1</u> |

1 point for each past violation, up to one (1) year
5 points for each past violation in a CO, up to one (1) year
No pending notices shall be counted

TOTAL HISTORY POINTS 3

II. SERIOUSNESS (Either A or B)

NOTE: For assignment of points in Parts II and III, the following apply:

1. Based on facts supplied by the inspector, the Assessment Officer will determine within each category where the violation falls.
2. Beginning at the mid-point of the category, the Assessment Officer will adjust the points up or down, utilizing the inspector's and operator's statements as guiding documents.

Is this an EVENT (A) or HINDRANCE (B) violation? Event

A. EVENT VIOLATION (Max 45 pts.)

1. What is the event which the violated standard was designed to prevent?

Water Pollution and Loss of Reclamation/Revegetation Potential
Ditch UD2 collects undisturbed drainage and sends it to Lower Robinson Creek.
Ditch DD4 collects water from along reclaimed areas and reports to pond #3 at its outlet, but breeches in the ditch reported to reconstructed Lower Robinson Creek.

2. What is the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard was designed to prevent?

| <u>PROBABILITY</u> | <u>RANGE</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| None | 0 |
| Unlikely | 1-9 |
| Likely | 10-19 |
| Occurred | 20 |

ASSIGN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE POINTS 20

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

*****According to the information in the inspector statement, "The berm along the storage/repair yard was purposely breeched to allow sump water (from a boot cleaning station) to flow into UD2. In addition, large walk-in storage units were placed on top of the berm that defines UD2. Ditch UD2 collects undisturbed drainage and sends it to Lower Robinson Creek.**

A breech in DD4 allowed water to erode subsoil slopes and sent sediment into the reconstructed Lower Robinson Creek. The sediment was treated with hay bales before heading down stream".

3. What is the extent of actual or potential damage? RANGE 0-25

In assigning points, consider the duration and extent of said damage or impact, in terms of area and impact on the public or environment.

ASSIGN DAMAGE POINTS 5

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

***** According to the information in the inspector statement, "The UD2 breech sent wash water into Lower Robinson Creek at the outlet of UD2.**

Incomplete construction of DD4 halted flow along the ditch at the location above the transition zone of reconstructed Lower Robinson Creek. Ponded water flowed over the edge causing erosion of the graded and subsoiled creek bank. Subsoil cover was lost and sediments entered reconstructed Lower Robinson Creek".

B. HINDRANCE VIOLATION (Max 25 pts.)

1. Is this a POTENTIAL or ACTUAL hindrance to enforcement? **Actual**
RANGE 0-25

Assign points based on the extent to which enforcement is actually or potentially hindered by the violation.

ASSIGN HINDRANCE POINTS 0

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS (A or B) 25

III. NEGLIGENCE (Max 30 pts.)

- A. Was this an inadvertent violation which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care? IF SO--NO NEGLIGENCE; or, was this a failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of a violation due to indifference lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation due to the same? IF SO--GREATER DEGREE OF FAULT THAN NEGLIGENCE.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| No Negligence | 0 |
| Negligence | 1-15 |
| Greater Degree of Fault | 16-30 |

STATE DEGREE OF NEGLIGENCE *Greater Degree of Fault*

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 20

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

*** *According to the information in the inspector statement, "The operator did not take reasonable care. It should have been evident but nothing was done prior to the citation being written. The operator was in violation of diversion ditch maintenance: R645-301-742.312 and prevention of additional contributions of suspended solids: R645-301-742.312.3". Previous enforcement includes NOV 20153, issued 7/7/2015, NOV 16150 issued 4/16/2015 and NOV 10078 issued on 3/9/2011. Each sentence in this explanation describes increasing degrees of negligence. Therefore a greater degree of fault is assessed.*

IV. GOOD FAITH (Max 20 pts.)

(Either A or B)
(Does not apply to violations requiring no abatement measures)

- A. Did the operator have onsite, the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area?
IF SO--EASY ABATEMENT

Easy Abatement Situation

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| X | Immediate Compliance | -11 to -20* |
| | (Immediately following the issuance of the NOV) | |
| X | Rapid Compliance | -1 to -10 |
| | (Permittee used diligence to abate the violation) | |
| X | Normal Compliance | 0 |
| | (Operator complied within the abatement period required) | |
| | (Operator complied with condition and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan) | |

*Assign in upper of lower half of range depending on abatement occurring the 1st or 2nd half of abatement period.

- B. Did the permittee not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance, or does the situation require the submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance?
IF SO--DIFFICULT ABATEMENT

Difficult Abatement Situation

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| X | Rapid Compliance | -11 to -20* |
| | (Permittee used diligence to abate the violation) | |
| X | Normal Compliance | -1 to -10* |
| | (Operator complied within the abatement period required) | |
| X | Extended Compliance | 0 |
| | (Permittee took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the NOV or the violated standard of the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete) | |
| | (Permittee complied with conditions and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan) | |

EASY OR DIFFICULT ABATEMENT? Easy, the permittee had the resources on hand to abate the violation.

ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS 17

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

***** According to the information in the inspector statement, "The operator promptly removed the culvert from the boot washing station and moved the storage units away from the berm. The operator sent photographs of the restored UD2 berm on 9/25/2015.**

Ditch DD4 was established in the transition zone and other breeches were repaired along the length of DD4. The operator sent photographs of DD4 in the transition zone on 9/25/2015".

V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NOTICE OF VIOLATION # <u>N 21158</u> | |
| I. TOTAL HISTORY POINTS | <u>3</u> |
| II. TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS | <u>25</u> |
| III. TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS | <u>20</u> |
| IV. TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS | <u>-17</u> |
| TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS | <u>31</u> |
| TOTAL ASSESSED FINE | <u>\$ 1210</u> |