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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

February 22, 2016

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT
7012 3460 0002 9559 6694

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. #21163, Coal Hollow Mine, C/025/0005, Task ID #5069

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 above referenced violation. The violation was issued by Division Inspector, Priscilla Burton on January 20, 2016. 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:

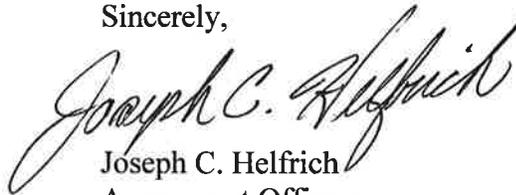
1. If you wish to informally appeal the fact of this violation, you should file a written request for an Informal Conference within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. This conference will be conducted by the Division Director. This Informal Conference is distinct from the Assessment Conference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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph C. Helfrich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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 21163 VIOLATION 1 of 1

ASSESSMENT DATE February 18, 2016

ASSESSMENT OFFICER Joe 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>
<u>NOV #21157</u>	<u>September 22, 2015</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>NOV #21158</u>	<u>September 22, 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 5

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?

Environmental harm and Water pollution.

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, "Panel 4E was mined in July 2015. Delay in backfilling the HWT2 Panel has allowed water to build in the trench creating less than ideal conditions for backfilling".***

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, "Water has accumulated in the trench such that the auger panels could not be backfilled and the backfill in the trench cannot be compacted".***

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 NA

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 *Negligence*

ASSIGN NEGLIGENCE POINTS 25

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

******* *According to the information in the inspector statement, "The operator's mining operation proceeded in three locations at once (Pit 10, the southern pits and the HWT). The operator did not take reasonable care to ensure reclamation followed the completion of mining within 60 days. The operator did estimate that reclamation would be completed sometime in 2016 (Dwg 5-38). This violation requires a more specific timetable for abatement. Specific permit conditions not met include: Failure to have rough backfilling and grading follow coal removal by not more than 60 days in accordance with R645-301-553. Previous violations include NOV 10135 issued 1/15/2015.*

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

- X Immediate Compliance -11 to -20*
(Immediately following the issuance of the NOV)
- X Rapid Compliance -1 to -10

(Operator complied within the abatement period required)
(Operator complied with condition and/or terms of approved Mining and Reclamation Plan)

*Assign in upper or 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? Resources available on site, easy abatement, extended compliance

ASSIGN GOOD FAITH POINTS 0

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION OF POINTS:

***** According to the information in the inspector statement, "The operator did estimate that reclamation would be completed sometime in 2016 (Dwg 5-38). This violation requests a more specific timetable for abatement.**

Abatement date was February 1, 2016. An extension until February 16, 2016 was requested on February 1, 2016 and authorized on February 8, 2016".

V. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

NOTICE OF VIOLATION # **N 21163**

I.	TOTAL HISTORY POINTS	<u>5</u>
II.	TOTAL SERIOUSNESS POINTS	<u>25</u>
III.	TOTAL NEGLIGENCE POINTS	<u>25</u>
IV.	TOTAL GOOD FAITH POINTS	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL ASSESSED POINTS	<u>55</u>

TOTAL ASSESSED FINE \$ 3,850