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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 8, 2016

Kirk Nicholes
Environmental Specialist
Alton Coal Development, LLC
463 North 100 West, Suite 1
Cedar City, UT 84721

Subject: Alton Coal North Private Lease Area, Coal Hollow Mine (C/025/005) North Private Lease Parcel, Kane County, Utah: SHPO Case Number 15-0990 - Archaeological Monitoring & Historic Properties Treatment Plan - Preliminary Report on the Tier I Testing of Site 42KA3097 & Historic Road Reconnaissance.

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) Coal Regulatory Program has received a summary report of Tier I testing conducted at site 42KA3097 prepared by Bighorn Archaeological Consultants, LLC (Bighorn), in conjunction with the proposed North Private Lease Parcel from Alton Coal Development. According to the report, measures agreed to in the historic properties treatment plan have been carried out for the site including a re-inventory of that area between the site boundary as identified in 1986 and that identified in 2005, the GPS location documentation and collection of artifacts noted on the surface of the site, and the placement of 62 shovel test probes to ascertain presence/absence of depth potential. It is the recommendation of Bighorn that no further data recovery be conducted at this site.

Please note seven of the shovel test probes discussed in this report were placed outside of the project APE/permit boundaries. These represent an unanticipated Adverse Effect to site 42KA3097, and are the subject of ongoing consultation to appropriately address and mitigate for this action. Upon such time a means of addressing this matter has been reached between DOGM, SHPO, and PLPCO, the proponent (Alton Coal) and their archaeological contractor (Bighorn) will be notified of the additional measures required.

The report has been reviewed both by DOGM and Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The summary of testing provided in the preliminary report is adequate for both DOGM and SHPO, and DOGM finds the report sufficient to provide Alton Coal with a Notice to Proceed for construction activities in AREA 1 as described in the North Private Lease Area permit application, contingent on additional cultural monitoring as discussed in the treatment plan. Please call me at 801-538-5325 or e-mail me at daronhaddock@utah.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

